



Princethorpe
College

THE Tower REVIEW



**A CELEBRATION OF THE
2017/18 SCHOOL YEAR**



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Celebrating a year in the life of Princethorpe College

Welcome to *The Tower Review* a celebratory review of the 2017/18 school year.

Some of you may remember that *The Tower* used to be the College's magazine which provided termly updates on life at school, before the advent of our fortnightly e-newsletter *The Flagpole*. A stalwart of the archives, much enjoyed by pupils and parents, past and present, the College has decided to dust off its much loved magazine and give it a new lease of life, this time as an annual souvenir review.

Charting the College's year in words and pictures this new edition relives the year and celebrates the pupils and ethos that together make Princethorpe such a very special place.

2017/18 had a lot to live up to, following on from the glorious celebrations of our Golden Jubilee year. It had its own challenges, including some of the heaviest snowfall in a long while, but there were many wonderful and memorable moments and plenty of achievements and rewards.

So much happens here, day in day out, making it hard to capture it all. We hope you enjoy reading it and remembering, just as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together.





Message from the Headmaster



2017/18 was another exceptionally busy and successful school year and I would like to thank all our pupils, parents, staff and trustees for their support for the College. There is so much that goes on at school each and every day and I am sure you will all have your own personal highlights. Here are some of the events, successes, stories and achievements that particularly stood out for me over the course of the year.

Trips and expeditions

The school year was again packed with a range of activities, trips and expeditions. We know that residential trips make a huge impact on our pupils in so many areas and are often a highlight of the year. You will, I am sure, enjoy reading all about them in this review.

Over the course of the year the pupils had many opportunities to widen their horizons: the History and Politics trip to Moscow and St Petersburg; the Holland Hockey exchange; the Year 7 trip to the Pioneer Centre; the Year 8 trip to Whitemoor Lakes; the Lower Sixth trip to Marle Hall; the Ski trip; the Spanish trip; the Dubai Football tour, the Year 8 trip to the World War One battlefields sites, the Lon Las Cymru cycling challenge, the retreat to Taizé and last but not least, the biennial Camps International expedition, this time to Costa Rica.

Outside Class

It was also tremendous to see record numbers of Princethorpe pupils embracing the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, taking the opportunity to develop skills and try new experiences, pushing themselves both mentally and physically. Some 173 pupils completed their Bronze (113), Silver (40) and Gold (20) expeditions, showing true commitment, enthusiasm and grit along the way.

Campus Improvements

We are always looking to make improvements to the campus and facilities and in the summer of 2017 one of our major building projects was the complete refurbishment of the theatre. This super facility with high quality sound and lighting has been a real boon for the school and we were treated to some notable productions over the course of the year: Kindertransport, Arabian Nights, Loserville and the Lost Girls.

The Clarkson refurbishment was a project which received major support from our Parent Teacher Association and I would like to record my thanks to all parents and staff who give their time and energy supporting the school in so many ways and raising large sums of money for projects and equipment to benefit the education of all.

Pupil Successes

There were many occasions when the pupils inspired us with their creativity, hard work and perseverance: the House Talent Show; the Spring Concert; the Summer GCSE and A-level Art, Photography and Design Show; the inspirational work produced for da Vinci projects and The Pinnacle; the Princethorpe Oscars; and of course the wide variety of sports teams and fixtures throughout the year.

It's hard to single-out individuals but it was certainly a major achievement for the girls' U13A Hockey team to win the 7 and 11-aside county hockey titles and qualify for the nationals. The multitude of House events at all levels were also inspiring, giving each pupil the opportunity to contribute and represent their houses.

The flagship event is of course the tremendous House Activity Day where every single member of the College is involved. The theme this year was Disney, staff and pupils had nine amazing tasks to tackle including High School Musical, drumming, singing and dancing à la Lion King, designing a new movie and shooting arrows with Robin Hood... all in all a really wonderful day.

Charitable Work

Some of the most memorable and special moments are when the whole school community comes together. This is often by giving both time and energy to some wonderful charitable causes and living out the ethos of the school by showing kindness, compassion and love for others.

It was another bumper year for projects and activities run with the sole aim of helping other people, not just by raising money but also by giving of time. We had cake sales, ice-lolly sales, pancake races, 24 and 40 mile walks, non-uniform days, pink days, blue days, Valentine's flowers, car boot sales, visits to the Leamington Night Shelter, lunches and social events.

Some of the charities we have been involved with are local, other are national or international and the total raised by the Princethorpe community was just under £20,000, a tremendous achievement.

Development Office

We were also pleased by the response from the Princethorpe community to the launch of our Development Office's 50 +10 Bursary Fund. As you will recall, we created the Fund to provide an additional ten full bursary places for deserving pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend the College.

An increasing number of families chose to support this Fund by making a small monthly donation and I would like to reiterate my thanks to these families whose contributions make such a difference.

Examination results

The culmination of the academic year is of course in August when GCSE and A-level results are released. This is clearly a nerve-wracking time for pupils, parents and staff alike and this year we had many new specifications and of course the new number grades to deal with. We strive hard to ensure that each member of the College's community makes the most of their talents and achieves the very best possible results for them. Our pupils rose to the challenge and we were delighted with their results, which were amongst the best in the College's history.

We were absolutely thrilled with the exceptionally high number of top grades this year, but were equally proud of all our pupils who worked hard and did their very best. The majority of our Year 11s progressed into our Sixth Form to continue their studies and we bade a fond farewell to our Upper Sixth leavers as they made their way onto the next stage of their lives, equipped, I am pleased to say, with the valuable qualities of kindness, respect, determination and friendship which we as a community hold so dear.

2017/18 was another superb year at Princethorpe. I hope you enjoy reliving all the wonderful aspects of it with the help of The Tower Review.

E D Hester
Headmaster

Michaelmas News

01

Whole school photograph

The 2017/18 academic year began with the taking of the whole school photograph. A photograph of the Princethorpe family is taken for posterity once every three years.

Thursday 7 September dawned bright and dry and the gathering of nearly 1000 souls - pupils, teachers and support staff - went smoothly. Then right at the last moment the sun came out.

Another chapter in Princethorpe's long history, now hangs alongside its predecessors in the cloister corridor adjacent to the Chapel.



01

02

Martin Griffin shares his mindset mantras

In mid-September the College welcomed back educational researcher, Martin Griffin, the CEO of Mindset Character Education.

Martin visited the College to talk with the Sixth Form, Year 10 and 11 pupils about the characteristics of a successful student. He shared his wisdom on the different techniques and mindsets required to achieve top grades. His strategies are based on real student experience and his presentation was full of excellent practical advice.



02

03

Journée Européenne Des Langues 2017

Championed by our MFL team, for European Day of Languages in September, pupils participated in all sorts of activities. A design a t-shirt competition, trivia quizzes, European language film showings and the MFL photo booth all ran alongside the usual provision for Spanish, French and German lessons.

Even the College catering team, Holroyd Howe, got behind the theme of linguistic diversity with a cornucopia of European delights served in a European flag-decorated dining room.



03

04

Invaded by Roman Centurions

In October visiting Roman Centurions invaded the College armed with swords and shields and ready to do battle. It was Year 7 Roman Day, a day when every pupil in the year enjoys lessons full of tales of blood and gore, as they learn about the Roman invasion and settlement of Britain.

Lucky class 'volunteers' dressed up in full body armour and attempted to carry a soldier's kit, as Roman Tours expert, Centurion Ocratius Maximii, captivated the new recruits with graphic stories of life in the Roman Army and fascinating facts about all things Roman.



04

Michaelmas News



05

Sixth Formers perfect interview skills

The Princethorpe Careers Team organised a mock 'Interview Day' for the Sixth Form in October. Designed to perfect their interview technique, sharpen their communication skills, presentational qualities and their ability to respond to feedback, each student took part in a thirty-minute mock interview with a professional whose field of expertise matched their future study and career interests.

Some 31 professionals from backgrounds such as: Law, Medicine, Television, Engineering, Architecture, Accountancy and Business kindly volunteered their time to help, they included Old Princethorpians and past and present parents.

06

Gripping mother and daughter story for inaugural production

The first performance in the College's refurbished Clarkson Theatre was Diane Samuels' classic *Kindertransport*.

It was a fabulous and fitting production put together by Drama teacher, Alyson Goodey and a small cast of six pupils - Maymie Alford, Georgia McCallum and Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey from Year 10, Carys Burchell and Natasha Carter from Year 9 and Tom Lomas from Year 7. It was a stunning first for the new theatre.



06



07

Princethorpe marks Remembrance Day

On Friday 10 November, at 11.00am, the whole College community gathered together on a cold and windy playground to silently reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women. Year 8 trumpeter, Ben Murray, sounded *The Last Post* and the College observed a two-minute silence. Then came a selection of readings by pupils and the hymn *Abide With Me* before a wreath was hung at the Pupils' Entrance.

08

Pupils rise to the Senior Maths Challenge

In November pupils took part in the 2017 UKMT Senior Challenge, a national competition that recognises the best young mathematicians in the country. Although primarily aimed at students in the Sixth Form, able College mathematicians from both Year 11 and the Lower Sixth participated in the testing competition.

Lower Sixth Former Megan Jones and Year 11 Caitlin McBride were both awarded Silver certificates. Whilst Lower Sixth Formers Edward Bickerton, Imogen Blackhall, James Bunting, Beth Elliott, Amy Field, Henry Langford, Alex Meredith and Jasmine Rigg and Year 11 Isla Grant were all awarded Bronze certificates.



08

Michaelmas Term Trips

01

Monkeys, meerkats, marshes and marine research

In mid-September 25 Upper Sixth students headed off to the Isle of Wight for their Biology Field Trip. First stop was Monkey Haven, an Owl and Monkey rescue sanctuary, in Newport, where the students enjoyed learning about ex-situ conservation. Their next few days were spent at the Medina Valley Outdoor Education Centre where they completed two of their required assessed practicals, as well as getting useful hands on experience of field work.

The return journey was broken up with an informative stop off at Southampton University's Oceanography Centre for a lecture on climate change, a tour of the laboratories and aquariums and a fascinating trip out on the University's Research Vessel - Callista.

02

Non-stop fun for Year 7 pioneers

At the end of September the College took 120 pupils to the Pioneer Centre for a three-day programme that included caving, climbing, abseil and zip wire, the big bounce, raft building and initiative games.

It was a fantastic early opportunity for Year 7 pupils to bond together as a year group. They had an amazing time and grew in confidence after approaching new challenges with determination and enthusiasm. They came back to school with new friends and better able to work together as a team.

03

Exploring Shrewsbury and Carding Mill Valley

Just before Michaelmas half term 47 intrepid Year 11 Geography pupils visited Preston Montford, one of the Field Studies Council's specialist outdoor centres. The two-day trip supported the geographical investigations modules pupils were undertaking for their Geography GCSE.

Pupils spent one day exploring human geography topics, comparing the quality of life in the Castlefields and Radbrook Green districts of Shrewsbury and a second day investigating physical geography topics in Carding Mill Valley, near the Long Mynd.

04

Broadway bonanza in the 'Big Apple'

During the Michaelmas half term 20 Performing Arts pupils visited the 'Big Apple' on an exciting adventure to explore and experience the 'dramatic' American way of life. On the six-day trip, pupils visited some of New York's most iconic landmarks, took in a Broadway show and were lucky enough to take part in a performing arts masterclass that explored Broadway's historical significance and the training process of a Broadway performer.

They also enjoyed a meal at the famous Ellen's Stardust Diner, workplace of aspiring Broadway stars and home to the 'singing waiters', who took to the table-tops as the pupils enjoyed their favourite American diner food.

05

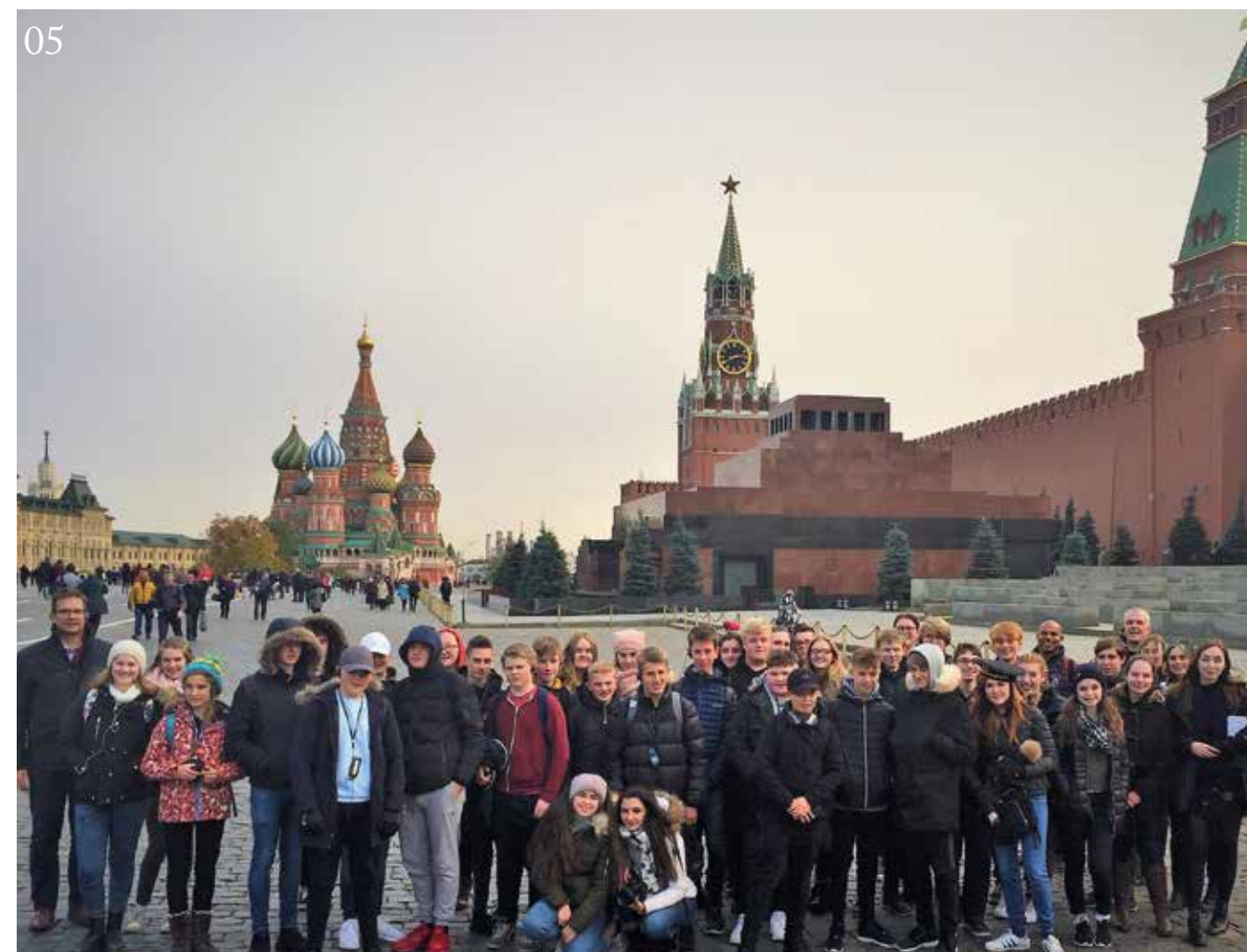
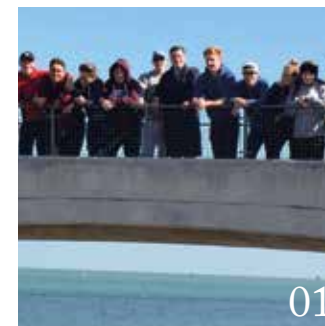
Trip to Russia full of grand culture and pure adventure

A much anticipated visit to Russia took place in the Michaelmas half term. 38 pupils and six staff headed off to Moscow and St Petersburg for six days of spectacular enlightenment, grand culture and pure adventure.

The visit started in Moscow with a full city tour that included the iconic Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral, a tour of the Kremlin and the very impressive Armoury Chamber. Pupils also visited the Red Army Museum and discovered the history of the Russian space programme at the Cosmonaut Museum. The group then travelled on to St Petersburg to explore the grandeur and opulence of the many Tsars' palaces.

On their final night they feasted on traditional Russian food including a hearty bowl of borsch. Theatrical entertainment topped off the evening with lots of participation from pupils and notable performances from Mr Hester and Mr McCollin. The pupils returned to the UK with amazing memories and an incredible array of Russian memorabilia.

Michaelmas Term Trips



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On their final night they feasted on traditional Russian food including a hearty bowl of borsch.

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Michaelmas Term Sport



First place for Inter Boys and Girls in the ESAA county cross county qualifier

In October runners from ten Warwickshire schools took part in the county qualifying round of the English Schools Athletics Association's Cross Country Cup.

The U13 Junior teams ran first and the Princethorpe Junior Girls ran a cracking race with five girls in the top 20. Evie Phillips placed 5th followed by Grace Darcy in 8th, Julia Loftus in 12th, Jess Evans in 14th and Lucia Bell in 16th place. The Junior Girls claimed overall second place. For the Junior Boys Toby Collett ran well to finish 11th with Ethan Fletcher crossing the line in 20th.

The Junior Boys finished in sixth position.

The Inter Boys' team ran an excellent race with the Crowfoot brothers pacing side by side, Will Crowfoot came in 2nd, Tom Crowfoot in 3rd, George Dunkley in 17th and Archie Houghton in 20th. The Inter Girls' team did equally as well with Molly Minshull leading the Princethorpe pack to finish in 2nd, Erin Darcy in 4th, Eve Howard in 5th and Anneliesa Douglas in 14th. Both the Boys' and Girls' Inter teams were placed first overall and qualified for the Regional round.



Another successful South Coast Tour

In the Michaelmas half term the annual South Coast Sports Tour took 42 Year 8 and Year 9 pupils on a four-day trip that included matches, visits, activities and plenty of fun.

For the Year 9 boys hard work in training paid off against experienced teams. They almost managed to keep a clean sheet, with results of 58-0 against Portsmouth Junior Rugby Club, an amazing 43-0 against the heavyweights of Canford School and 50-14 against St John's College.

The Year 8 netball girls had a mix of results but their games included some super ball handling and individual play. Against Portsmouth High School the A team lost 12-19 but the B team won 17-6. The girls then split into three teams for their matches against Talbot Heath School, where they recorded two losses and a win. Their final matches against St John's College saw the A team winning a hard and close fought game by one point 18-17 and the B team going down 5-20.

Off the pitch pupils visited Splashdown, went ten pin bowling, enjoyed costal walks and of course a competitive morning of games on the beach.



Michaelmas Term Sport

Boys and Girls bring home Hopbel Hockey Tour Cups

During the Michaelmas half term Princethorpe's U15 Boys' and U14 Girls' hockey teams travelled to the Netherlands for the first leg of the annual Hockey Tour. In addition to four days full of training and tour matches the pupils and their hosts managed to squeeze in plenty of fun. Highlights included, a six-man bike race around a local woodland, tasting local Dutch 'croquet' cuisine and a visit to explore the cobbled streets of local town Den Bosch.

The practice proved profitable, with the boys remaining unbeaten on tour, with results of 6-0, 7-2 and 7-0, and the girls' team doing just as well with match results of 2-0, 0-2, 3-0 and 2-1.

Princethorpe was delighted to retain the Boys' Cup and win back the Girls' Cup.



Swimmers qualify for National ISA Swimming Championships

At the start of November Princethorpe's swimmers competed at the Midlands ISA Swimming Championships against twenty schools from across the region. Overall the Girls' team claimed victory finishing first with the Boys' team placing third.

The boys put in solid performances across all year groups with highlights that included Year 7 Harry Kelly coming 2nd in 25m Butterfly, the Year 7 boys taking 2nd in the Freestyle Relay and Year 8 Edward Sharpe coming 2nd in 25m Breaststroke. The Year 9/10 boys swam strongly to place second overall as a team, with Year 10 Toby Rigg taking 1st in 50m Freestyle and Year 10 George Ward coming 2nd in 50m Breaststroke. The Year 9/10 boys also claimed 2nd in the Freestyle Relay and Medley Relay races.

For the girls, Year 8 Jess Mackenzie outclassed the competition winning both the individual 25m Freestyle and 25m Butterfly races.

Year 9 Lucia McCosker-New took 1st place in the Year 9/10 50m Freestyle and then claimed 2nd in the Year 9/10 Individual Medley.

Year 10 Evie Nicholas was blisteringly fast to finish a clear three seconds ahead in the 50m Backstroke.

The Year 9/10 girls also claimed 2nd overall for the Freestyle Relay and Medley Relay.

For the Senior Girls Caitlin Newport was a clear 1st in the 50m Breaststroke whilst Jasmine Rigg took 2nd in the Individual Medley.

The Year 11 and Sixth Form girls also finished 2nd in the Freestyle and Medley Relays. The Senior Girls and the Year 9/10 girls both won their groups overall.



Prize Giving 2017

Inspirational Prize Giving celebrates what makes Princethorpe so special



Achievement, progress, creativity and contribution were celebrated at Princethorpe College's prestigious annual Prize Giving Ceremony at The Butterworth Hall, Warwick University Arts Centre on Friday 3 November.

The College was delighted to welcome a very special guest of honour, Old Princethorpean, Jide Olanrewaju who returned to the College for the very first time, accompanied by his family, to present the Biodun Olanrewaju Memorial Prize that commemorates his father.

In his formal address the Headmaster, Ed Hester, gave thanks to all those who make Princethorpe the special place it is - the Trustees, the MSCs, the staff, the senior team, the parents and most importantly the pupils. His words paid tribute to all that is done in support of the College, the kindness, the compassion and the values that underpin the success stories of so many of our pupils and not just those who received prizes on the evening. He reminded us all that a Princethorpe education can literally change the course of a young person's life. Mr Hester congratulated the previous year's Year 11 and Upper Sixth on their examination results and reflected that the value added scores at A-level were the best ever in the College's history.

Prize Giving 2017

The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the Year 7 Chorus, College Orchestra and College Jazz Band.

At the ceremony pupils were presented with House Prizes for Progress and Achievement, GCSE and A-level Examination Certificates and a myriad of trophies, cups and shields. The poignancy of the occasion was perhaps best shown by the presentation of the Biodun Olanrewaju Memorial Prize. In making the presentation Jide talked about his family's time at the school, about the unstinting care and support the College had provided and how the family had set up the prize in memory of his late father who died tragically, while he and his brother were boarders at the college and who embodied the spirit and values of Princethorpe. The award which included a £1,000 cash prize was presented to Lower Sixth Former James Fletcher.

The Princethorpe Shield, the oldest and most prestigious College award, presented annually to the student who is seen to embody the spirit and ethos of the College in many facets of their school life was awarded, with much back clapping and cheering, to Marcio Zheng.

To close the proceedings Head Girl, Miriam Isaacs, and Head Boy, Tim Duffy, gave an eloquent vote of thanks before the evening finished with the singing of the College Hymn, *Here I Am Lord*.



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The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes.
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Michaelmas Charity

01

Nearly £6,000 raised for Warwickshire Young Carers

At the start of the year Princethorpe College presented a cheque to Warwickshire Young Carers for £5,883. The charity had been nominated by pupils as House charity 2016/17.

The Chief Executive of Warwickshire Young Carers, Deb Bignell, visited the school on Wednesday 20 September to receive the donation and she was presented with a cheque by Sixth Form Charity Prefects Ben Haden and Samantha Bromage-Eccles.



02

Porridge pots support World Porridge Day

Pupils supported World Porridge Day raising money for Mary's Meals. Championed by Sixth Form students, pupils participated in a posse of Scottish and porridge themed fundraising fun.

At break time Princethorpe pupils rushed to purchase a traditional Scottish breakfast, a pot of porridge, from the refectory. The Scottish theme continued at lunchtime on the school fields where only the brave participated in the William Wallace Welly Wanging Challenge. The winning throw came from Upper Sixth Former Joe Connell whose Welly Wang reached a whopping 33m for More House setting a new record.

03

Sixth Form 'Wore it Pink' in support of Breast Cancer Charities

Sixth Formers blitzed the school day with an array of pink costumes when the College celebrated 'Pink Day'.

In true Princethorpe tradition, the Sixth Formers wholeheartedly embraced the theme, turning up dressed as pink pigs, fairies, cheerleaders and in fluffy pink onesies galore. Every pupil in the school made a cash donation for the non-uniform day and the coffers were swelled by cake sales.

04

Pupils support Parish T4U Shoebox Appeal

The Chaplaincy Team supported the Parish Shoebox Appeal, to provide gifts for children overseas who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

A grand total of 45 boxes were assembled and shipped packed full of little gifts and essentials. Chaplaincy prefects, Matthew Duigan and Luke Dunkley, promoted the appeal and supervised the sorting and packing of the boxes by younger pupils.

Christmas



Chapel Christmas tree decorated with love

The tree in the Chapel was decorated with over 1,000 special stars, hand-cut and hung by the Year 7 Chaplaincy Team and each holding the name of a special someone.

A testament to the presence of love in the world all put together by Year 7 pupils Lauren Bach, Amelie Hancock, Julia Loftus and Erika Zanyi.



College Feast Day celebrates Princethorpe's Spirit of Family

Friday 8 December 2017 was College Feast Day, a celebration involving the whole College community, marking the day back in 1854 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were founded and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The day was also designated Christmas Jumper Day, which pupils and staff embraced enthusiastically. Pupils were on timetable in the morning, but a longer lunchtime allowed the catering team to serve up no less than 542 Christmas dinners.

Katie skated into first place with winning Christmas Card design

The College Christmas Card competition was won by Year 7 Art Scholar Katie Richards. Her jolly design featured four skating nuns, mid-snowball fight wearing Princethorpe's House colours.

Rousing 'Twelve Days of Christmas' brought Michaelmas term to a close

Joining together at the end of the Michaelmas Term is an occasion that pupils and staff look forward to, not least because it signals the end of a busy term. The College Carol Concert was a joyful celebration of advent with readings and congregational singing of favourites such as 'Once In Royal David's City' and 'Hark The Herald Angels'. The final traditional rendition of the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', led by the Sixth Form Prefect Body, was theatrically orchestrated by Will Stone who whipped up the 900 or so participants into pitch perfect parts.

Local senior citizens join Sixth Formers for turkey and the trimmings

Sixth Formers welcomed over 130 guests from a number of local care homes together with residents from the local community for a special Senior Citizen's Christmas Celebratory Lunch. The guests were served turkey and were treated to excellent entertainment by pupils from the village primary school and Sixth Formers, Erin Dunn-Morgan and Harriet Molloy. Head of Sixth Form, Ben Collie also led the assembled guests in a joyful sing-along of much loved traditional carols.

Lent News

01

Sixth Formers explore National Portrait Gallery

In mid-January Sixth Form Photography students and Upper Sixth Art students visited the National Portrait Gallery to view the Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize Exhibition and the Cezanne Portraits Exhibition.

It was an inspirational trip for all the students as they started the preparation for their A-level examinations.

03

Freestyle football tricks help develop literacy skills

The motivational power of the nation's favourite sport was used to develop Princethorpe pupil's literacy skills. 20 Year 8s enjoyed taking part in the National Literacy Trust's 'Skills Academy', a ten-week initiative that used the excitement of football and freestyle ball tricks to motivate pupils to improve their literacy skills.

The project was very successful and as a reward the pupils had the chance to put their new football skills into action in a special training session run by Sky Blues in the Community coaches.



01

School or college Name	Type of school or college	Number of students with an A-level result	Progression to university
Princethorpe College	Independent School	97	Well above average 0.30
Hylton School	Academy	164	Below average 0.21
Warwick School	Independent School	159	Below average 0.21

02



03



04

02

Government tables confirm Princethorpe's A-level progress is well above average

School performance tables issued in January 2018 by the Government confirmed the substantial level of academic progress students make in the Sixth Form.

Princethorpe was the top performing school in the local area and the only school to score 'Well above average' for Progress in A-level performance in 2017. The table placed Princethorpe in the top 5% of all schools or colleges in England.

The progress measure indicates the 'value-added' by the school, looking at where young people started and where they end up.

04

Pupils gain first-hand insight into computer games industry

Towards the end of January over 30 Princethorpe pupils, plus their parents and staff enjoyed a dedicated talk from Computer Games industry expert Roisi Proven.

Roisi was invited in to the College to speak on her experience of working in the industry and technology sector generally and her talk covered topics as diverse as the different games she has worked on, why having people skills is so vital, the role of creativity, psychology and intuition in creating games and the different routes available into the sector.

Lent News



05



06



07



08

05

Foundation pupils' cross-school space mission Rendezvous with a Comet!

In early February 35 Foundation pupils from Years 6 and 7 swapped their normal lessons to 'Rendezvous with a Comet' at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

There the pupils took on the roles of scientists and engineers on a daring mission to take an up-close look at a comet as it streaks its way across the solar system. After a briefing by Space Centre Commanders, the children quickly got to work on their mission handling obstacles and problems as they emerged. The mission-critical trip ended with a special film in the 3D planetarium.

07

Past pupil Emilio Doorgasingh opens Theatre

In February, the College welcomed back Old Princethorpe and professional actor, Emilio Doorgasingh (1983), to officially open The Clarkson Theatre after its dramatic transformation over the summer of 2017.

In his opening speech Emilio spoke eloquently about his time at the College and how the teachers had inspired his love of the theatre and set him off on his career. He also spoke movingly about former headmaster Fr Clarkson and how his wise counsel helped him through his teenage years.

Commenting on his visit, Emilio said, "It was fantastic to be back at Princethorpe 35 years after leaving, to re-open a theatre I had played in all those years ago!"

06

Robotics team take on First Tech Challenge in Italy

Over February half term a six-strong team of young robotics engineers travelled to Italy to compete in the First Tech Relic Recovery Europe Invitational Challenge. *The Robot Cavaliers*, comprised Year 9s Max Critchley, Archie Hancock and Stan Brocklebank and Year 7s Harry Kelly, Alexander Leret and Jake Lambert. They were one of only two teams from the UK competing in the invitational competition.

The Princethorpe team finished 9th overall, an excellent result especially as most of the other competitors were Sixth Form students. The boys were also delighted to be awarded the Rockwell Collins Innovation Award which was given to the team with the most innovative and creative robot design solution.

08

Princethorpe passed ISI Inspection with flying colours

In February Princethorpe passed the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) regulatory compliance inspection with flying colours. The College was judged to have met all of the eight standards required of it.

Amongst its findings the report commented on 'GCSE performance from 2014 to 2016 (the period covered by the inspection) being above the national average', 'that principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils' and that 'the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively'.

Regulatory compliance inspections report on a school's compliance with the Independent School Standards Regulations. All schools are required to meet all standards applicable to them. The report was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team at Princethorpe.

Lent News



09 Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition runners up

Sixth Formers Tom Steventon, James Fletcher and Ed Williamson impressed the judges to finish as runners up in the local round of 'Youth Speaks', the Rotary Club's annual public speaking challenge. Competing in the Senior section, Tom Steventon gave an excellent presentation on the subject of excess plastic packaging. He was eloquent and convincing and was well supported by James and Ed who both made strong contributions to the team's performance. Their speech was very well received with the audience engaged throughout.



10 Award winning teenage author Alan Gibbons inspires creative writing

Award winning author, Alan Gibbons, visited the College in late March to talk about his life as a writer and to run creative writing workshops for pupils. Alan has penned more than 70 books and won multiple literary awards.

In the morning he spoke to Year 9 pupils about how real-life provides inspiration for his work. He talked about his novel 'Hate', a hard-hitting, real-life thriller about friendship, courage, loss, forgiveness and a fundamental lack of acceptance within our society.

After lunch Alan ran creative writing workshops for Year 7 and 8 pupils. His 'write-a-long' approach had the pupils fully engaged as they developed their own horror stories.



11 'Class Dismissed Fisher Style' stole Best Movie at The Princethorpe Oscars - The Pentalogy

Each year Hollywood celebrates the prestigious Academy Awards, but at Princethorpe College we have our own 'night of nights', the Princethorpe Oscars, when the Sixth Form Atrium is transformed and the red carpet rolled out for our shining stars and budding directors.

In 2017/18 15 films, produced by pupils and staff, were up for consideration with the best of the best being awarded much prized mini Oscars.

The People's Choice Award was given to the prolific Josh Tidd for his stunning film 'The Holy Buxton Water', an excellent piece of work that featured the bleak landscapes of the Peak District. Best Movie however was reserved for what will clearly become an epic of its time, 'Class Dismissed Fisher Style'. The depth of talent involved, Mrs Galano's struggle, the unique quality of the acting and the artistic talent made the film a clear winner with the judges and audience alike. The assembled audience couldn't remember the last time they'd laughed so much.

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The assembled audience couldn't remember the last time they'd laughed so much.

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Arabian Nights

The production of Dominic Cooke's adaption of Arabian Nights, was directed by Aileen Cefaliello and supported by Vicky Roberts, Joint Heads of Drama, and performed with verve and passion by Princethorpe College's wonderful troupe of pupil players.

For three nights captivated audiences were transported to a colourful world of larger than life characters, tall stories and Eastern promise.

On the last night of the production OP and professional actor, Emilio Doorgasingh, took time to speak to the cast and answer questions about acting as a career and his life on the stage, before officially opening the Clarkson Theatre.



Lent Term Sport



Year 7 Girls battle sleet and snow to become Cross Country Champions

The Warwickshire Schools Cross Country Championships took place at the end of January. Competing in freezing conditions and battling rain, sleet and snow, 25 College pupils doggedly ran the undulating course around the school's exposed playing fields. A good set of results saw the Year 7 Girls (Minors) finishing overall as County Champions with Grace Darcy finishing in 6th place, Julia Loftus 10th, Jess Evans 11th, Molly McGrory 13th and Tilly Houghton 18th. Other team placings had Junior Girls 2nd, Minor Boys 2nd, Junior Boys 2nd and Inter Boys 4th.



Swimmers bring home medals and a new record from ISA Swimming Championships

A team of nine swimmers represented the Princethorpe Foundation at the National Independent Schools Association's Swimming Championships.

Year 8 pupil Jess Mackenzie swam superbly to finish in a time of 28.74 taking a gold medal and setting a new record for the Year 8 Girls' 50 metre freestyle. Mackenzie just missed a second medal later in the day when she finished in 4th place in a time of 32.69, in a very close race in the Year 8 Girls' 50 metre butterfly.

Year 11 Caitlin Newport swam powerfully to take a silver medal in the Senior Girls' 100 metre breast stroke. In a challenging dual she finished the race in 1.23.29.

Lucia McCosker-New also took silver in the Year 9/10 Girls' 100 metre freestyle just missing the gold by 0.29 of a second in what was an exciting, nail biting finish.



Great eight qualify for National ISA Cross Country Championships

At the end of January a 34-strong squad took on the challenging course at Bedstone College in Shropshire in tricky conditions. Both the U14 Girls' and Boys' teams ran well and many College pupils finished in the top 20, that bagged both the top spot and the team trophy for their age group.

Eight runners qualified for the National ISA Cross Country Championships. For the U14 Girls Julia Loftus and Jess Evans ran determinedly to finish 8th and 9th respectively. For the U14 Boys Mark Dunkley finished 6th.

For the U16 Girls Molly Minshall had an outstanding race taking 2nd place and the silver medal. She was followed over the line by a sea of Princethorpe red vests as Eve Howard finished in 5th, Erin Darcy 9th and Luisa Garcia-Stokes 10th. The U16 Boys' team ran bravely with the Crowfoot twins in excellent form, Will finished 9th to qualify.

Netballers nail the Independent Schools' Nationals

Princethorpe College nailed the Independent Schools Netball National Championships with the U18s, U16s and U14s teams all placing and bringing home medals; the only school competing at the Championships to have such success. Held at Malvern St James Girls' School in March, girls from schools across the country battled the College sides in as many as six back-to-back gruelling matches. On inside courts and outside on the astro, a new surface for the girls, the College teams blitzed through their matches with enthusiasm and tenacity.

The U14 Girls had five straight wins netting 75 goals along the way. They lost out only in the finals to Alderley Edge 6-11 to finish as silver medallists. The U15 Girls played in the U16 competition and, despite being a year younger, played brilliantly to place third and earn themselves a bronze medal. In their competition the U18 Girls were the winners of the plate final which earned them an overall bronze medal as well.



Lent Term Sport



U16 Boys' Hockey take ISA Regional title

On Monday 29 January Princethorpe College's U16 Boys' Hockey team travelled to Cannock Hockey Club in Staffordshire to compete in the Independent Schools Association's (ISA) Regional Boys' Hockey Championships. It proved to be an easy win for the College's more than competent side. The boys controlled the final against Lucton School expertly, playing a smooth and flowing game and easily taking the title. Playing for the team were Toby Bower, Luke Brotherton, Oscar Bunting-Relfh, Tom Crowfoot (Captain), Will Crowfoot, Ross Curtis, Dominic Doyle, Allister Edmonds, Jesus Fuster-Ruiz, William Hoggarth, Angus Potter, Toby Rigg, George Saunders and Oli Thomas.



U13 Girls' double County Hockey Champions

On Saturday 3 February the U13 Girls' Hockey Team travelled to Bablake School to play in the Warwickshire Schools' County Championships. Playing against Bablake, King Henry's, King's High and Stratford Girls' Grammar the girls were unbeaten in every game and won the County title.

Then on Thursday 15 February the U13 Hockey Girls were also crowned 7-a-side county champions. In three exciting matches they beat Stratford Girls Grammar 3-0, King's High 2-0 and Bablake.

Both were great wins for the team: Lucia Bell, Issy Bunting, Eve Farquharson, Molly Harper, Jess Mackenzie, Evie Phillips (Captain), Jasmin Rose, Grace Thomas, Lara Tripp-Smith (Vice Captain), Molly Wincott-Thomas and Zoe Wallis.



U13 Girls' Netball team through to The National ISA Finals

The U13 Girls' Netball team took first place in the Independent Schools Association's (ISA) Regional Netball Championships. The team included Issy Bunting, Eve Farquharson (Vice-Captain), Millie Giffin (Captain), Mia Johnson, Jess Mackenzie, Evie Phillips, Rosie Pritchard-Jeffs, Lara Tripp-Smith and Molly Wincott-Thomas.

The girls won four fast-paced group stage matches against St Edward's 14-0, Twycross 5-2, Adcote 10-1 and Malvern St James 12-3, to qualify for the semi-finals. There they played some super netball against Heathfield to win comfortably 14-0. The final was against Stafford Grammar and the girls worked hard, passing and shooting well to win 13-5.

“The girls were unbeaten in every game and won the County title.”

Footballers pitted against the world's best in the International Dubai Super Cup

The College's U17 football team flew to Dubai over the Easter holidays to compete in the prestigious Dubai Super Cup, an international football competition that attracts youth teams from across the globe. Played at the superb facilities of the Sevens Stadium the trip was an unforgettable experience for all, on what was the College's first overseas football tour.

The boys played in the U19 Youth category with 16 teams from countries as far afield as Australia, South Africa, Nigeria and Pakistan. The tournament was a valuable experience that gave the team a chance to learn new moves, new skills and new tactics.

Whilst in Dubai the Princethorpe players also had the chance to participate in plenty of sightseeing. It was a successful first overseas football tour.



Careers Fair

Careers Fair provides insights into wealth of career possibilities



On Saturday 17 March and despite the desperately bitter, cold and wintry weather Headmaster, Ed Hester welcomed a capacity crowd of some 750 pupils, parents, staff and contributors to the College's fourth biennial Careers Fair.

Over forty speakers, including current and former parents and Old Princethorpians, gave their time to present on a wide variety of careers and professions. From Accountancy and Law to Medicine, Engineering, Computing and TV and the Media, individual presentations gave pupil attendees the chance to consider careers, research jobs, listen to advice and ask questions.

The morning began with a keynote speech from guest speaker and Princethorpe parent James Hutcheson, Managing Director Finance and Administration for leading supermarket retailer, Aldi. Mr Hutcheson's introduction was full of inspiration and sound advice. He urged pupils to 'work out what makes you different', 'to prepare for your future' and 'to be clear about what you are going to do when you leave here'. He explained how aspirations can change, reassuring them that 'typically an individual will have 11 different jobs', often in different companies and different fields. He was full of the sort of sound, insightful and practical advice that only a top three Times 100 graduate employer can provide. He advised pupils to 'focus on what you can control', to identify 'what is your added value', and he concluded with a reflection on the quality of a Princethorpe education describing it as 'an opportunity not to be wasted'.

Thanking Mr Hutcheson, Ed Hester summed up with the hope that the Careers Fair would succeed in 'getting pupils on the right track' and with that the attendees were off for a fruitful morning of exploring careers, organisations, universities and life after the classroom.

Princethorpe's Sixth Form Atrium served as the hub for the morning with an exhibition full of employers, universities and Gap Year companies. The Sixth Form Theatre was a space dedicated to organisations such as IBM, Jaguar Land Rover and Rolls Royce, with representatives on hand to talk to interested pupils and parents about apprenticeship programmes.

For many pupils this was their first step on the career ladder and they were able to have a taste of some of the different sorts of career choices available to them. After the event there was plenty of positive feedback with parents and pupils commenting on how useful and informative the event was.

“
Mr Hutcheson's
introduction
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sound advice.
”

Careers Fair



Prefects

Inauguration ceremony welcomes new Prefect Body



The College Prefect Body for 2018/19 was formally inaugurated into their roles in an emotional ceremony on the last afternoon of the Lent Term, Wednesday 28 March.

Parents and friends of the new prefects were invited to College for a celebratory buffet lunch before joining the afternoon's formal ceremony. The outgoing Head Boy, Tim Duffy, and Head Girl, Miriam Isaacs, gave a moving speech reflecting on their year in office and time at Princethorpe before wishing the new Prefect Body well, and handing over the keys of office. The 2018/19 Prefects smartly attired in their cobalt blue prefect uniform for the first time, spoke to the gathered audience of pupils about their hopes for their new roles.

2018/19 Prefect Body

Head Girl	Elizabeth Carr	More House Captains	Aimee Sen-Gupta Tiarnan Wukics
Head Boy	Tom Warne	Social Prefects	Sammy Inskip Jake Wilson
Deputy Head Girl	Georgia Newborough Cara Wallis	Charity Prefect	Christie Wukics
Deputy Head Boy	Alexander Meredith Alfie Thomson	Chaplaincy Prefect	Meera Chauhan
Pastoral Prefects	Sarah Abrahams Luke Daniel Georgie Glasspool Daniel Hagan Jasmine Rigg Jack Saunders	Junior Chaplaincy Prefects	Toby Convey Year 7 Austin Conor Fernandez Year 9 Austin Chloe O'Carroll Bailey Year 7 More Zoe Shayler Year 7 Benet
Austin House Captains	Abbie Baker Alex Hutcheson	Academic Prefects	Patrick Carrington Megan Harcourt Charlotte Silvester
Benet House Captains	Lily Dyble Bryn Lewis	Marketing and Communications Prefect	Beth Elliott
Fisher House Captains	Freya Barnett Sam Richards	Games Prefects	Molly Geehan Anna Wells Ben Brown Robert Lord

Lent Charity

Fluttering hearts supported British Heart Foundation

Individual red and white carnations were hand delivered by Sixth Formers to classrooms across the College on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 February, all in celebration of St Valentine's Day.

There were over 70 lucky recipients who helped to raise £130, all of which was donated to help the British Heart Foundation in their mission to 'fight for every heartbeat'.

“ Valentine's flowers raised £130 for the British Heart Foundation. ”

Pupils step out in blue for cancer charity

The College's annual Blue Day saw Sixth Formers and pupils raising awareness and money for Prostate Cancer UK.

Held traditionally on the last day before half term, this year Friday 16 February, Sixth Formers donned an array of blue themed costumes and organised fund raising activities that included a netball match, where the girls' first team faced the boys' first rugby team, and the always popular cake sale.



Trinity News



01

01 Dreadlock Alien 'Out of this World' Poetry Workshop

In April performance poet Richard Grant, also known as the Dreadlock Alien, visited the school to host an inspirational Poetry Workshop for Year 7 pupils. He quickly captured the pupils' attention using beat boxing and rhyming games to bring poetry to life. His love of language was infectious and inspiring and it was fascinating to watch him work.

The day included a number of mini performances of the Dreadlock Alien's own inimitable poetry and plenty of word challenges, including as a finale a mini rap battle which saw staff and pupils being put 'on the spot' to test their word power and rhyming skills.



02

02 Geography inspiration from explorer Matt Dickinson

Matt Dickinson visited Princethorpe College in May. A successful writer and film maker Matt is one of the very few cameramen to ever film at the summit of Everest. He spoke to Year 9 Geography pupils about his experiences climbing the tallest mountains in the world and coping in extreme climates. He shared breath-taking images and film clips of towering icebergs, fathomless ice crevices and gigantic glaciers and discussed the wider geographic impact humans are having on the world.

His anecdotes helped pupils understand the preparation, practice, the determination and resilience required to be an adventurer, but also how it is possible for anyone to get out there and get involved in the natural world.



03



03

03 Loserville production brilliant and energetic

The College's performance of Loserville took place in June. The musical, think Grease meets The Big Bang Theory, had the audience laughing one moment, then cringing the next, in a non-stop, bouncy and energetic production. It told the story of Michael Dork and his closest friends, a group of socially awkward teenage boys struggling through 'High School' in 1970s America.

Loserville was filled with brilliant and energetic rock songs by James Bourne of Busted, who happily gave the crew a good luck shout out on Twitter! The production was fabulously farcical but huge fun and the audiences really enjoyed seeing the heroes get their 'Ticket Outta Loserville'.



03

04 Another exceptional Summer Art, Photography and Design Show

The Summer Art, Photography and Design Show 2018 took place in June. The Sixth Form Centre was transformed into an eclectic exhibition space, the light and airy atrium showcasing pieces at their best.

On display was work from A-level and GCSE pupils exploring a diverse range of mediums and themes. In the main hall fascinating portraiture sat alongside superb studies, imaginative illustrations and phenomenal photography.

In the Design and Technology studio, intricately stitched dresses and tutus showcased this year's Textiles pieces, whilst Resistant Materials' final projects included fine oak chests, swooping seating and even games tables, and from our Electronics pupils there was a range of different sized and shaped amplifiers.



04

Trinity News

05 Year 11 celebrate with Thanksgiving Service

For over 150 Year 11 pupils, Friday 22 June was an important day. With their public examinations finally out of the way, Year 11 pupils and their families were invited back to the College to celebrate the end of their GCSE year in a final Year 11 Thanksgiving Service.

Over four hundred guests attended the service held in the College Chapel and Father Alan Whelan welcomed them all warmly. A number of staff, including Heads of House and members of the Senior Leadership Team, gave emotional readings that reflected the aspirations the College held for their future. The mood was one of celebration and optimism for the journey ahead.

Then finally the Year 11 pupils came together for that much anticipated celebration of their school career - their Prom.

They were blessed with a beautiful summer's evening and the backdrop of the atmospheric architecture of Warwick Castle. It was a wonderful and magical event.



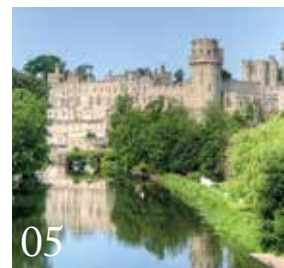
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06 Upper Sixth say farewell with a Thanksgiving Eucharist and fabulous Ball

The Upper Sixth celebrated the end of the examination season and their time at Princethorpe with a Thanksgiving Eucharist and a fabulous farewell Ball. It was one last chance for them to gather together to reminisce over their time at the College, the friends they have made and the many adventures they have had along the way.

The Eucharist service took place in the Chapel at school whilst the Upper Sixth Ball followed one day later at the beautiful and historical Coombe Abbey. There students smartly attired in black tie and ball gowns enjoyed a sparkling reception, followed by a delicious sit-down dinner, much anticipated speeches and then dancing until dark.

It was a joyous occasion with lots of laughter, shared memories and plans for the future.



06



06



06

07 Pupils relish their culinary trip to Borough Market and Camden Lock

Year 9 pupils enjoyed an end of term culinary day trip to London to visit Borough Market and Camden Lock on a curriculum-themed visit in preparation for the start of their GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course. Pupils began at Borough Market, before visiting Bread Ahead Bakery and Neal's Yard Dairy. Then it was on to buzzy Camden Lock to experience 'street foods' and to investigate foods from around the world. It was super inspiration and preparation for their future studies.



07

Trinity Term Trips

01 Wonderful Whitemoor Lakes weekend

Year 8 enjoyed a wonderful weekend at Whitemoor Lakes Residential Centre in mid-May. 90 pupils took part in a three-day programme that included archery, canoeing, climbing, abseiling, zip wire, high ropes, problem solving and the challenge course. In small groups pupils rotated around the different activities working together to rise to all the challenges they were set. The group also had fun playing team games and enjoyed a fabulous Saturday night disco. Pupils tackled the activities with great energy and commitment and showed excellent team-working skills.

02 Costa Rica proved an amazing Central American adventure

Over the summer holidays 70 pupils took part in an amazing adventure. The pupils travelled to Costa Rica with Camps International where they worked on community and conservation projects. Immersed into a completely different culture, they lived and worked alongside the local population. They had no choice but to buckle down and get on with some serious grafting and in so doing they gained independence, learnt a lot about themselves and this diverse and fascinating Central American country.

In the south of Costa Rica at Camp Terraba they worked on community projects that included improving sanitation and building a community kitchen. At Camp Guanacaste, in the heart of the protected Caño Negro Forest Reserve, the pupils helped make beehives, painted park benches and played football with the local children. At Camp Pacuare, on the Caribbean coast, their work included environmental projects with beach cleans and work recording turtle hatchlings size and weight. Then, all of the pupils also spent a day in Monteverde where they explored the local coffee, sugar and chocolate industries. Finally, all the pupils took part in a PADI Open water Scuba Course at Camp Playa Panama on the Pacific coast and put their new skills to good use helping with the construction of an artificial reef in the ocean.

Trip Leader, Faye Roberts, commented, "All the pupils worked hard and I mean hard. The projects were mostly tough manual labour but aside from the donkey-work there was time for fun. Football at the community pitch, cooling off at the beach after a day of hard work or simply making friends with the local children at the park. They enjoyed many bonfire nights at the different camps sharing sweets and resting after long days at work. Our pupils gained so much from the trip, many visibly matured and we are so proud of them all."

03 Cyclists conquer 202-Mile Challenge

In early July Princethorpe College's Cycling Club undertook the 202-mile Coast-to-Coast Challenge that runs from the bottom to the top of Wales.

On the seven-day trip, eleven pupils and four staff pedalled from Chepstow Castle in the south, up through the Gospel Pass and Hay-on-Wye, into the Black and the Cambrian Mountains, then up into Snowdonia, passing through Machynlleth, Dolgellau and on past Harlech and Criccieth Castles to finish at one of the loveliest towns in North Wales, Caernarfon. Along the way, Princethorpe's tourers cycled up through the highest pass in Wales, undertook one of the steepest ascents in the National Cycle Network and enjoyed some of Wales' most picturesque views.

For all of the tourers the sense of pride and achievement as they approached Caernarfon was palpable. Princethorpe's 2018 Cycling Challenge was a super summer adventure that made memories and muscles that will surely last a lifetime.

04 Trip to Taizé was truly inspirational

In July eleven pupils and two staff travelled to Taizé, an extraordinary Christian community made up of Catholics and Protestants, situated in a small village in the Bergerac region of the south of France. During the 10-day trip, the Princethorpe pilgrims camped and experienced community life with around 2,000 other young people from across Europe and beyond. Three times a day they gathered with the brothers in the church to sing and reflect in silence. They also took part in discussion workshops with young people of their own age and had plenty of free time for socialising too.

Trinity Term Trips



“All the pupils worked hard and I mean hard.”

Trinity Term Sport



U12 Footballers crowned Warwickshire Schools Cup Champions

In April the Year 7 Football Team were crowned U12s Warwickshire Schools Cup Champions after a super final against Nuneaton's Higham Lane School. Along the way the team had dispatched Bilton School 6-0, Kenilworth School 1-0 and Ashlawn School 7-1.

From the first whistle both sides didn't disappoint putting on an excellent and tenacious display. As the second half progressed, Joe Bird finally managed to break through and play an excellent ball to Luc Sen-Gupta who picked it up and scored what proved to be the winning goal. Superb defence from Finn Osborn and Jamie Robinson prevented successful retaliation and a delighted Princethorpe went on to secure the cup title with a 1-0 victory.



U13 Girls Hockey team qualified for Nationals

In April the U13 Girls' Hockey team travelled to Cannock Hockey Club to compete in the National In2 Hockey Schools U13 Regional Championships.

The opening match against Northampton School for Girls was an easy 4-0 win. Then it was Shrewsbury School and they were dispatched just as quickly 3-0. Bromsgrove School put up more of a fight, the match was fast paced and had plenty of goals and finished in a 3-3 draw.

Next up were the quarter finals where the girls beat Trent College 3-2. The team then played Oakham School in the semis and won again. By now the girls had trounced some seriously good schools. Hopes were high as they lined up for the final against Royal Grammar School. It was a fast-paced game from the off, the team played brilliantly but just couldn't find a way through and in the end went down 2-0.

The top two teams qualified for the National Finals so Princethorpe's U13 Girls' Hockey team still got to go through.



Golden goal seals U13 Netball National ISA Championship

In May the Year 8 Netball Team were crowned ISA National Netball Champions. They took on 11 schools from across the country in the finals at Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate in York.

The girls stormed though the Group Stage hitting the ground running with fast attacking play. They won all their first round matches dispatching Alderley Edge School for Girls, St Michael's School, Hull Collegiate School and Claires Court School. Keeping the momentum up and their shooting sharp, the U13s had another easy win in the semi-final against St James Senior Girls' School 12-4.

For the final they were pitted against Ballard School and from the start it was a tight match. The girls had to fight for every ball and work tirelessly together, grabbing every opportunity to turn over, transition down the court and convert. Ballard fought back hard, testing the Princethorpe defence again and again. The teams were well matched and with goals aplenty from both sides at full time the score stood at 12-12. The game then went to sudden death and, Goal Attack, Rosie Pritchard-Jeffs kept her nerve and shot the golden goal to seal the national championship title for Princethorpe College.



Trinity Term Sport

College athletes triumph in Warwickshire Schools Athletics Combined Events

The Senior and Inter Girls' Athletics Team delivered top scoring performances to finish first in the Warwickshire Schools Combined Events. Hot on their heels were the Inter Boys' team who's matching determination led to a deserving second place. It was a super start to the athletics season.

In the Senior Girls' Heptathlon, the College's Lower Sixth girls took all the top placings with Hollie Moore 1st after storming the 800 meters, Anna Wells 2nd following huge jumps in both the High Jump and the Long Jump and all-rounder Charlotte Silvester claiming 3rd after performing consistently across all the disciplines.

The Year 10 girls also put in a magnificent effort, they attacked the Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin, Shot, 80m Hurdles, 200m and 800m to deliver in all the disciplines. Maddie Glasspool finished 3rd overall, Evie Headland 4th, Mya Lloyd-Thomas 6th and Amelia Cunnington 9th to again clinch Princethorpe overall first place.

The Inter Boys had the Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin, Discus, Shot, 100m Hurdles, 400m and the 1500m to contend with. Year 10 Boldi Kordas led the charge finishing in overall 3rd after a second place in the 100 metres Hurdles and third place in the 400 metres. He was followed closely by Sam Wincott-Thomas who finished 4th overall after an incredible throw in the Javelin. Ellis Chaplow came 8th overall, a nimble footed middle distance runner, he finished in second place in both the 400 metres and the 1500 metres. Their hard work earned the College second place overall.



Hockey Girls put up strong fight at Schools National In2Hockey Championships

After a very successful season, with 24 wins and 136 goals tucked under their belts, the U13 Girls' Hockey Team travelled to Nottingham Hockey Centre in mid-May to compete in the National Finals of the Schools In2Hockey Championships. Pitted against the very best hockey schools in the country and playing in matches that were nine minutes each way, they found the games fast-paced and their opponents well practised.

In the first round the team played four matches, they secured a good win 3-1 against Stockport Grammar School, a draw 1-1 versus Gresham's School, but went down 1-0 to St George's College and 2-1 to Redmaids' High School. They finished third in the group and qualified for the 5th vs 6th playoff.

The girls put up a strong fight, with plenty of confident stick work, good tackles and brave defensive play, but despite some strong driving runs their good chances were not converted into goals and the girls went down to Wakefield Girls' High School and the team finished in sixth position overall.

This was the first time that a Princethorpe Girls Hockey team has ever made it through to the Nationals and the College was incredibly proud of them.



“This was the first time that a Princethorpe Girls Hockey team has ever made it through to the Nationals.”

Trinity Charity

Tenth Mary's Meals Marathon Walking Challenge raises nearly £8,000



On Sunday 25 March 70 walkers from Princethorpe trudged a grand total of 2,131 miles to raise money for the charity Mary's Meals.

For the tenth consecutive year Sixth Formers, staff and OPs laced up their walking boots and took on the challenge of either walking 24 miles in seven hours or going the extra distance and completing 40 miles in a day.

Sam Munro was first to finish the 40 miles, romping home in a time of 11 hours and 36 minutes whilst Freya Barnett and Aisling Brennan were first across the line for the 24/7 challenge completing the course in 6 hours and 32 minutes.

Organiser of the event and Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Mr Rod Isaacs, who also completed the 40 mile walk, commented, "As always there was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie along the route. Everyone was helping each other and keeping focused on the aim to raise as much money as possible."

“

Everyone was helping each other and keeping focused on the aim to raise as much money as possible.

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PTA



Thunder goes down a storm at PTA Christmas Fayre

Thunder the reindeer was the hit attraction at the PTA Christmas Fayre as the College welcomed hundreds of visitors to the school at the start of the run up to the Christmas celebrations. Tinsel, baubles, mulled wine and festive cheer were in abundance, along with an excellent array of stalls.

To add to the seasonal excitement there were plenty of activities for all ages to participate in and the chance to meet Father Christmas himself in his glittering sleigh. The crowds also enjoyed musical entertainment in the shape of the performances by youngsters from the Bilton Silver Band, who entertained with a range of festive tunes to get everyone in the mood.

“

Bilton Silver Band, entertained everyone with a range of festive tunes to get everyone in the mood.

”



Super PTA Summer Fête raises stunning sum

At the end of the year the College's annual Summer Fête and Motoring Festival proved a delightful afternoon. The Orchard was transformed thanks to plenty of enthusiasm, gazebos and bunting and the sun shone allowing organisers and visitors to relax and enjoy themselves and their ice creams.

A new attraction this year was a Human Fruit Machine in the shape of enthusiastic Princethorpe staff, Lisa Gardner, Julie Aldridge and Bella Fogarty, who wandered the site, encouraging visitors to try their hand at matching three fruits from their pocketed aprons, they were hilarious!

The Fête was a wonderful entertaining family event, a great British way to spend a Sunday afternoon and best of all, on the day, it also raised an outstanding £2,500, money that is spent improving the learning of every pupil in the school.



PTA Funding Supports School

Over the 2017/18 academic year the PTA raised over £14,000 through a combination of fairs, raffles and bars.

The money raised was put to good use in supporting a wide variety of initiatives, including recording equipment for the new Clarkson Theatre, a contribution to the Outdoor Classroom, Lego for Learning Support, Activities Week including House Activities Day and the Year 11 Prom and Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball.



Sports Day

Red flags fly high as Benet claim victory at College Sports Day

Sports Day took place on Friday 15 June and it was a fantastic afternoon of friendly, but fiercely competitive sport.

In the end it was Benet that just snatched victory, followed very closely by More, then Austin and Fisher, but it was a close run competition where every performance, sprint, middle distance or field event counted and the result was only decided after the very final event – the nail-biting relay.

It was a lovely sunny day and after a week of internal examinations pupils were more than ready for an afternoon of competition and the chance to let off a bit of athletic steam. Yes, there were the winners, who are to be commended for their exhilarating performances, but there were also the moments of camaraderie where pupils pulled together and willed along those who were finding the going tough.



Sports Day

“

It was a fantastic afternoon of friendly, but fiercely competitive sport.

“



Duke of Edinburgh

173 pupils complete their Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Towards the end of the Trinity term 173 Princethorpe pupils completed their Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expeditions. Unaccompanied and self-sufficient they trekked and camped their way across Snowdonia (20 pupils for Gold), the Dark Peak (40 pupils for Silver) and the Cotswolds (113 for Bronze), working together in teams to achieve their expedition objectives.

Record numbers of Princethorpe pupils embraced the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2017/18. Taking the opportunity to develop skills and try new experiences, pushing themselves both mentally and physically to be the best they can be. The College was delighted with their commitment and enthusiasm.



Duke of Edinburgh



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Record numbers of Princethorpe pupils embraced the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2017/18.

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Awards and Successes



01

Head Girl wins National Public Speaking Award

In early September Head Girl, Miriam Isaacs, won the national finals of the Catenian Public Speaking Competition for Young People from Catholic schools. The competition took place at the Manchester Conference Centre, and Miriam was one of 16 regional winners who travelled from all over the country to take part in this prestigious event.

Miriam gave a four-minute presentation on the topic of 'Should the law always be obeyed?' – or as per Miriam's speech, perhaps not always obeyed!

Chris Kerrigan, Head of English, who had worked with Miriam developing her public speaking skills, said, "I knew Miriam had acquitted herself well, her presentation was well received by the audience as many people came up to congratulate her afterwards. All the competitors gave incredible performances so Miriam's victory is something we are really proud of."

02

LAMDA Examination success

In December pupils at Princethorpe College received the results of their examinations in a range of performing arts disciplines including: Mime, Reading for Performance, Acting, Verse and Prose and Public Speaking. Twenty-two achieved a Distinction, seven with a score of 90 plus, and two, Anneliesa Douglas and Grace Isaacs, were judged as perfect, scoring 100.

Congratulations also go to Head Girl, Miriam Isaacs, who was awarded a Grade 8 Gold Medal in Acting, the highest medal awarded by LAMDA.



03

National ISA Art Honours

Princethorpe College Art Scholar, Helena Lintott, was awarded first place in the Independent Schools' Association's prestigious National Art Competition. Her entry, Self Portrait, won the Key Stage 4 Drawing class making her the latest in a long line of gifted College artists to have had their work recognised in this way.

Her lifelike piece, a stunning, photo-realistic, drawn self-portrait, was part of her coursework for her GCSE Art examination. Helena was not the only College prize-winner in the competition. Also receiving national recognition in 2017 were Upper Sixth leavers Tom Barnes - Runner-up, in the Key Stage 5 Sketchbook class and Oliver Mottershead - Runner-up, in the Key Stage 5 2D Art Individual class, with his piece Memory, Isolation, Decay. Former Year 11 Lauren Hill, also received Highly Commended, for her entry, A Day at the Beach, in the Key Stage 4 Textiles Individual class.

Head of Art, Paul Hubball, applauded all the winners and commented, "These prizes are a reflection of the talent we have within our school."

“These prizes are a reflection of the talent we have within our school.”



03

Awards and Successes

04

Inaugural St Hildegard House Award for Academic Endeavour and Attainment

Austin House was the worthy recipient of the inaugural St Hildegard House Award for Academic Endeavour and Attainment. A new award that celebrated the effort, attainment and attitude of pupils in each and every teaching group in the school.

Taking its name from St Hildegard von Bingen, a visionary Benedictine nun who was declared a 'Doctor of the Church' by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, the St Hildegard award was presented to the House that received the greatest number of Endeavour and Teacher Awards.

In the whole school assembly on Monday 29 January top award winning Year 8 pupil Pratheesh Prabakaran, who himself received nine awards, was invited forward to receive the new award on behalf of Austin House from Headmaster, Ed Hester.



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School Library Gold Award

In March Princethorpe College was awarded the Gold standard in a prestigious national school library accreditation scheme that recognises and acknowledges the work of school libraries and their librarians across the country.

School Librarian, Celia Scott, was delighted commenting, "We are thrilled to have achieved such high recognition for our work. The requirements were challenging and we had to meet tough criteria to receive the award. We are delighted that the School Library Service decided we are worthy of the Gold standard."

The award was the second the Library was up for in the school year as back in September 2017 the College had also been shortlisted for the School Library's 2017 Inspiration Award.

06

Ben Abrahamson qualified for final stage of UK Government's Cyber Discovery Programme

Year 10 pupil Ben Abrahamson qualified for CyberStart Elite the final stage of the UK Government's Cyber Schools Programme, Cyber Discovery. From the 23,663 participants that started the extra-curricular learning programme Ben was one of only 100 pupils from Years 10-13 that made it through to the fourth and final stage.

Jan Ryalls, Computer Science Teacher, said, "It was an incredible achievement and a testament to Ben's problem solving, hard work and determination. Cyber security is now more than ever a careers area with huge potential and this experience will give him a head start if he chooses to progress into that line of work."



06



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07

'Bright Spark' wins Electronic Engineering Award

Upper Sixth Former, Michael Gucluer, celebrated after receiving a Bright Sparks 2018 Award. Michael was presented with the award in May in the Maxwell Library at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, in London.

Judged by a respected panel of industry experts, the awards recognise outstanding performance in the field of electronics and recognised work originally undertaken by Michael for his GCSE Electronics and Control Project that was developed further with support from the UK Young Engineers Mentoring Programme.

Achievers Lunches

Achievers lunches recognise pupils' outstanding contribution to college life

So many of our pupils commit in extraordinary ways both in and outside of College rising to the challenge of the College's ethos. They rise at dawn to train, excel in sport, spend hours in rehearsal rooms, perform to audiences, complete charity runs, go over and above for their tutor groups or show diligence, improvement and commitment to their studies.

Pupils are always modest about their achievements and often surprised by the attention they receive, not realising the commitment, motivation and tenacity such success demands.

It is just such qualities that the termly Celebration of Achievement Lunches reward and over the year 143 pupils from across all year groups were nominated by members of staff and invited to the College Roundhouse by Assistant Head (Co-Curricular), Mr Greg Hunter to celebrate their contributions.

	Michaelmas Achievers	Lent Achievers	Trinity Achievers
Year 7	Grace Bartlett, Darcey Heritage, Grace Isaacs, Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey and Natasha Thomas	Sam Astle, Jess Evans, Harry Fitzpatrick, James Hawkins, Amy Hogg, Harry Kelly, Morgan King, Jake Lambert, Alexander Leret, Tom Lomas and Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey	Emily Andrews, Ophelia Dibden, Marcus Garcia-Stokes, Daniel Heath, Amy Hogg and Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey
Year 8	Harry King, Mia Lambeth, Evie Phillips, Jamie Smith, Olivia Underhill and Madeleine Wilde	Alex Allison, Marcus Critchley, Will Hawkins, Izzy Kuzemko, Jess Mackenzie, Eva Ostler, Evie Phillips, Edward Sharpe, Grace Thomas, Aaron Tiwana and Joseph Watts	Corin Alford, Roualeyn Alford, Alicja Green, Amelia Greig, Will Hawkins, Adam Ledbrook, Freya Mills, Lottie Paybody and Evie Phillips
Year 9	Owen Armstrong, Mackenzie Brown, Gregory Burford, Rory Draper, George Dunkley, Alfie Kay, Caitlin Mason, Emily Scrivens and Freddy Swift	Keely Ball, Stanley Brocklebank, Archie Hancock, Archie Houghton, Bhavdeep Jandu, Grace Leigh, Lucia McCosker-New, Ethan Smith, Lauren Taylor, Mac Wood and Riley Worrall	Carys Burchell, Max Critchley, Freddie Draper, Rory Draper, Mary Lomas, Caitlin Mason, Mia Sen-Gupta, Harry West and Riley Worrall
Year 10	Hannah Bryer, Sophie Cheshire, Arran Knight, Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey, Rowan Tankard and Hannah Webber	Ben Abrahamson, Ellis Chaplow, Tom Crowfoot, Will Crowfoot, Evie Nicholas, Toby Rigg and Matthew Wills	Sophie Cheshire, Georgie Clarke, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Charlie Gordon, Prajeet Prabakaran, Jack Prance, Sebastien Shaw, Josh Tidd and Sam Wincott-Thomas
Year 11	Patricia Anttila, William Basford, Danielle O'Brien, Patrick Parfitt and Louis Price	Libbi Ancill-Griffiths, Jack Bent, Caitlin Conmy, Charlotte Khan, Caitlin Newport, Hannah Richards and Dominic Turner-Burr	
Lower Sixth	Anna Wells	Luke Browning, Meera Chauhan, Amy Field, Jasmine Rigg and Jake Wilson	Abbie Baker, Freya Barnett, Elizabeth Carr, Amy Field, Alex Hutcheson, Daisy Vucevic and Tom Warne
Upper Sixth	Max Brindley, Imogen Butler, Sol Elliott, Anna Harper-Lawrence, Thomas Hennegan, Miriam Isaacs, Faye Lewis, Kate MacIntyre, Jasmine Thearia and Emilli Thornton	Matthew Bonsall, Samantha Bromage-Eccles, Maddie Doherty, Matthew Duigan, Luke Dunkley, Sol Elliott, Miriam Isaacs, Lucy Jordan and Aidan McMahon	

Achievers Lunches



House News



The House System at Princethorpe is an integral part of College life underpinning the community ethos and pastoral care. A wealth of inter-house competitions take place throughout the year with the House Activity Co-ordinator, House Activities Leaders and Senior Prefect House Captains organising and presiding over events. At the end of the Lent term each year the coveted House Cup is awarded.

01 House competition heats up as Sixth Formers take on The Ready, Steady, Cook Challenge

What was once prime time television, Ready Steady Cook, has become a popular inter-house competition. Teams of Sixth Formers took over the kitchens for a hotly contested cooking challenge. The students had just 25 minutes to produce two plates of food, a main and a dessert from a bag of mystery ingredients.

Under the watchful eyes of the competitors the judges taste-tested the delicious assortment of dishes, deliberating long and hard before finally ordering the plates, in order of preference... and the results were: Mains: 1st Benet, 2nd Fisher, 3rd More, 4th Austin and Dessert: 1st Fisher, 2nd Benet, 3rd More and 4th Austin.



02 House singing competition

Held on the College's Feast Day the whole school took their seats in the Sports Hall for the much anticipated House Singing Competition. Much secrecy had surrounded the House choice of songs, with rehearsals going on for weeks, props sourced and musicians secured.

In turn the Houses rose to their feet to enthusiastically perform their pieces. Austin House was first up with Nina Simone's *Feeling Good*, then Benet House performed *Good Riddance (Time Of Your Life)* by Green Day, Fisher House belted out *Oh Happy Day* from the film *Sister Act 2*, and last but by no means least, More House took on the challenge of Adele's *Rolling In The Deep*.

The competition was judged by professional soprano and Princethorpe College vocal teacher, Joanna Kunda, who was very impressed with the standard of performance. She had a difficult decision to make but in the end decided that the winner should be Benet House.

“
Judge, Joanna Kunda had a difficult decision to make.
”



House News

Annual House Talent Show wows audience

Friday 24 November was the annual House Talent Show! A fun filled evening of all sorts of entertaining and amusing acts.

The show opened with a dynamic line dance number from Benet Steps and what followed included daring gymnastics, slick dance routines, stunning instrumental and vocal solos, fantastic duets, brilliant bands, amusing monologues and even a surprise performance of *Ol' Man River* by Headmaster, Mr Hester. We giggled at Mrs Rose's Bear Necessities costume, were amused by the House Captains' slick footwork in their High School Musical piece, and were entertained by the rugby team's enthusiastic rendition of *Grease Lightning*.

After watching all of the performances, and deliberating long and hard, the judges announced the winners. In third place for More was talented trumpet player Ben Murray with his Star Wars interpretation of the *Cantina Song*. Then, unable to separate them, second place was jointly awarded to tumbling gymnast Ollie Pendleton (Austin) and enthusiastic cheerleader and dancer Freya O'Mahony (Fisher). Finally, and to much applause, the winners were announced, Upper Sixth Formers, Luke Baldock (Benet) and Sam Bromage-Eccles (Austin) whose piano and dance romantic piece *Nuvole Bianche* had mesmerised judges and audience alike.

A huge thank you to all of the acts who performed and to the technical team who so ably assisted, your hard work, dedication and sheer talent are what makes this event so enjoyable. Thanks also to the judging panel, the very cool Old Princethorpians, Tom Barnes, Andrew Partridge and Joe Rees who joined us for the evening and had the incredibly challenging task of picking the eventual winners.



House News

03 The Great British 'House' Bake Off

There were 74 entries for the House Bake Off competition and what a tantalising display they made. The 'British' theme produced an incredible array of entries from right royal crowns, to the great British cuppa, bright red pillar boxes, plates piled high with full English breakfasts and cakes and flags of every shape and form.

The House teams and Food Tech Teacher, Jaqui Scott, deliberated long and hard, judging all the entries on taste, decoration and relevance to category. First Place: Lottie Paybody for her 'Breakfast' cake, Second Place: MJN for their 'We All Make Britain Great' cake and Third Place: Amelia Greig for her 'Stonehenge' cake, Pupils' Choice Award: Freya Barnett for her 'Crown' cake.



04 Once Upon a Time in Princethorpe World

Once upon a time a long time ago it was House Activity Day, an extra special day that celebrates the end of every year. This year Princethorpe pupils arrived and stepped into a magical Disney-themed 'Princethorpe World' with lots of fun and adventures to explore all around school. As always, many of Princethorpe's teaching staff embraced HAD with gusto and there was a fine assortment of Disney-inspired costumes!

House Tutor Groups set to work taking on various challenges including; The Labours of Hercules in the Orchard; escaping Aladdin's cave; giving Robin Hood and his Merry Men a run for their money; creating stop-animation Lego stories; building 2D snowmen and putting their vocal chords to the test with renditions of Let it Go and not to mention the fabulous Lion King inspired African Music and Drama workshop led by ACD Arts.

House Activity Day is always tremendous fun but it takes a huge amount of organisation from the very dedicated House teams. Well done to all for taking part and congratulations to Benet who this year claimed victory overall.



05 Fantastic Fisher finishes first in 2017/18 House Cup Challenge

Winning the House Cup isn't easy these days, you can't just win Sports Day and have it in the bag. To succeed every single individual pupil needs to pull together and do their best. This year it was a solid, steady and consistent performance that had helped Fisher win the day. Some of their many successes along the way included wins in the: Sixth Form Mini Quiz, Ready Steady Cook, The Oscars, Christmas Quiz, House Quiz, Parents' Quiz, World Book Day and the House's overall performance in Merits. In fact, it came right down to the last allocation of Merits before the final winner emerged, with only 110 points separating 1st and 2nd place.

A delighted Chris McCullough said, "I am so incredibly proud of Fisher House as I honestly believe that it is the extra activities that happen outside the classroom that help define the adults these pupils become. Each and every individual has contributed to our win in their own incredible way, well done to you all and thank you Fisher House."

Old Princethorpians



OPs vs College Sports Day 2017 kicked off the academic year in style

Building on the success of Princefest the 7th annual OPs vs College Sports Day included some new sporting challenges, namely an OPs vs Staff Football Match and an OPs vs OPs Rugby Match. Both additions were deemed great successes. Music, a BBQ, the Travelling Pug Bar and an ice cream van all added to the atmosphere.

As in previous years points were accumulated throughout the day, with the Alex Wallis Memorial Shield being awarded to the victors at the end of the day. This year it was a much closer run competition, with the College teams fresh from the South Africa Tour and pre-season training.

The OPs vs Staff Football, without Mike Taylor on the staff side, was a decisive 7 - 0 victory to the OPs and the OPs won the hockey fixtures but the College boys gave them a run for their money.

The Girls Hockey was a close affair with only a few hardy OP hockey players able to return. However expertly managed by Emily Wood the OPs came out victorious 3-1.

The netball sides organised two very strong teams, we called them OPs and OAPs! Jodie Fisher, Sophie Nicholls, Lottie Jones and Zoe Hyland steered their teams to victories against the 2nd VII but fresh from South Africa success the Princethorpe 1st V11 beat the OPs and OAPs in two excellent games.

Then on to the main event The John Shinkwin Trophy Match between the College's 1st XV and the OPs XV (leavers of 2017 and 2016) which saw the OPs put under huge pressure by the College. A hugely enjoyable match for all who played and watched the experience, the OPs won 31 - 29.

At the After Match Awards, Neil McCollin congratulated all on their efforts and crowned the OPs victors of the day.



Old Princethorpians

01 OPs enjoyed pub meet at Ye Olde Mitre

We had a cracking evening at Ye Olde Mitre, London in May. A tremendous number of Old Princethorpians from across the generations managed to find their way to this quirky, historic venue and up the steep stairs into the cosy Bishop's Lounge.

It was particularly nice to see some newcomers to OP events as well as our regular London stalwarts. One of the loveliest things to see was how well all the Old Princethorpians get along together, regardless of whether they had been at Princethorpe in the 60s or had only left three years ago!



02 OPs former Parents' Saturday Brunch went down a treat

We were absolutely delighted to see so many of our former parents at our inaugural OPs Former Parents' Saturday Brunch. The 30 or so guests spanned over three decades of involvement with the College, from the mid 80s to 2017. Everyone enjoyed a top notch brunch and conversation flowed as old friends caught up and new friendships were made.

A large group were then treated to a tour of the College by longstanding teacher, Alex Darkes, whose extensive knowledge and love of the school was plain to see and hear!.

03 Sun shines for OPs Summer Supper

The Old Princethorpians' Summer Supper lived up to its name as the College basked in balmy summer sunshine. This popular event made a come-back this year, after last year's Golden Jubilee festivities, and was aimed specifically at the leavers of 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008, celebrating their respective 50th, 40th, 30th, 20th and 10th anniversaries.

Nearly 30 Upper Sixth leavers from 2008 attended along with a small number of leavers from 1978 and 1988, plus some from other years. The 90 or so guests also included the OPs Committee, former staff, staff who have worked at the College since 2006 and staff who are leaving at the end of this academic year.

After an optional tour of school, the guests gathered in the Quad for drinks, before moving to the Main Dining Room for a delicious hog roast and salads followed by summery desserts.

Malachy O'Keeffe, Former Head Boy of 2008, said, "It was such a lovely evening and great to see so many old faces, both from my year group and the teaching staff. We are already talking about how much we are looking forward to doing it again in the future."

04 Launch of OP Friendly Faces

This year the Old Princethorpians launched a new initiative, OP Friendly Faces, which aims to link past pupils established at university with first year OP students. Providing a friendly, familiar face to meet up with over a coffee (compliments of the OPs) or having someone to call in their new uni town or city, would, we hoped, make for a smoother experience in those first few weeks away from home and help establish a support network of OPs in universities across the country.

At launch there were OP Friendly Faces in around 30 university towns and cities across the UK. Feedback from the initiative has been overwhelmingly positive with meet ups arranged in Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Oxford and Norwich. Plans are afoot to widen the initiative over the next few years.

Old Princethorpians



“It was such a lovely evening and great to see so many old faces, both from my year group and the teaching staff.”

Development

In its second year the Development Office continued with its work to make a difference at Princethorpe.

01

50 +10 Bursary Fund update

Launched in the Golden Jubilee year the 50 +10 Bursary Fund aims to provide at least ten fully funded bursary places for children who would otherwise be unable to benefit from a Princethorpe education and by October 2017 the College was able to offer a first full bursary place.

Work continued to source further donations and by the end of the year the Development Office were delighted to report that, in the 24 months since it was established, our incredibly generous regular givers had already raised £11,000 towards the Bursary Fund – a fantastic and much appreciated amount.



01



02

Coffee transforming young lives through regular giving

The 'Coffee Transforms Young Lives' campaign, launched by the Development Office in September 2017, encouraged families to gift small regular amounts of £12 each month - the equivalent to three coffees, to help fund bursaries.

The message 'Cut the Coffee, Change a Life' aimed to strike a chord and help the College become a truly inclusive place.

03

Development Focus Group launched

October saw the first meeting of the Development Focus Group, of five current and former parents, who meet termly to give their time, guidance and advice to the Development team, giving valued feedback on projects.

The team values such donations of time and expertise greatly, and it is wonderful to have such a mix of skills around the table. The group, which represents a cross section of parents at the College, gives invaluable feedback and direction to all our fundraising work.



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London donors meet with College staff

In June, former pupils Jide Olanrewaju and Finbarr Roche-Kelly, met with the Headmaster and College staff at Beaufort House, Chelsea.

Jide, and his brothers Tunde and Yemi, who attended Princethorpe College in the 1990s, generously donate the Biodun Olanrewaju Memorial Prize each year at Prize Giving, in memory of their father.

Finbarr, a pupil at the College in the 1980s is a regular donor to our 50 +10 Bursary Fund. Together they shared stories about his time at Princethorpe.

The former pupils were thrilled to hear about developments at the College, particularly the redevelopment of Switzerland and the outdoor classroom, and of our plans for a more philanthropic future.

The evening ended with an open invitation to visit the College and see the developments first hand; an invitation that is open to all of the Princethorpe community, far and wide.

Development

Hong Kong visit abounds with memories, hospitality and friendship

During the Easter holidays a contingent from Princethorpe, journeyed to Hong Kong to meet with past pupils who had boarded at the College from the late 1960s to the 1990s. The focus of this visit was a Development Reunion Dinner at the prestigious Hong Kong Club on Saturday 14 April. Helping organise the dinner were OPs Alan Young, Vitus Leung, Nelson Ngai and Heman Lam.

All Old Princethorpians living in Hong Kong or the Far East had been invited and OPs from across the generations attended. Most were resident in Hong Kong, but others travelled from further afield, including Simon Loasby who now lives in Shanghai, Jonathan Leung from Singapore, Peter Lee from China and Peter Yang (aka Fat Jack) from Australia.

After a short drinks reception, a delicious three-course buffet was enjoyed by the 40-strong group in the club's private Harcourt Suite. The more formal part of the proceedings saw Headmaster, Ed Hester, take to the floor to address the gathering. He explained his connections with the College, how things had changed over the years, the huge debt owed to the College's founders, the MSCs and the strong Christian ethos that continues to this day. He also spoke about plans for a new Science building aimed at giving pupils the very best facilities to encourage the pursuit of Science-based careers.

Rachel Hadley-Leonard, Development Director, then introduced guests to the work of the Development Office including milestones and progress since the office was opened in 2016. She concluded by asking for the group's support for the College in a variety of ways, whether in terms of mentoring and careers advice or sponsorship of bursaries or supporting aspects of the new Science building.

Commenting on the visit, Headmaster, Ed Hester said, "We were completely overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome we received and the hospitality shown to us. There is clearly a huge fondness for Princethorpe within the OP community in Hong Kong and they seemed delighted to be reminded of times past and also to see the many developments that have happened at the College over the intervening years. We hope that the Hong Kong OPs will find ways to support us, keep in touch and come and visit us at Princethorpe soon."



“
We were completely overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome we received and the hospitality shown to us.
”

Results Days

Another year of outstanding results for Princethorpe's A-level and GCSE pupils.



In summer 2018 over a third (34%) of all A-level grades were A* or A and more than 80% of grades were C or better; at GCSE 43% of all entries were graded the coveted new 9, 8 or 7 grades (A* or A) and 39 pupils achieved eight or more 9, 8, 7 grades (A* or A).

Ed Hester, Headmaster, said, "Our students worked so hard and we are incredibly proud of their achievements." Amongst the seventeen high fliers who achieved three or more A* or A grades were Head Girl, Miriam Isaacs, Head Boy, Tim Duffy, Ed Williamson who received his results on his 18th birthday and the College's highest achieving student James Fletcher who went on to read Law at Trinity College, Oxford.

A-level summary:	Many Princethorpe pupils nailed the new GCSE 9 grade with the best individual results achieved by Caitlin McBride who achieved nine 9s, two A*s and an A grade and Sophie Mitchell who achieved nine 9s and two A* grades. Princethorpe pupils performed well in all the core GCSE subjects but the College was particularly delighted with its best ever English results with 64% of pupils achieving 9, 8 or 7 grades. Given the rarity of the new 9 grade, and the new more demanding GCSE courses, Princethorpe's pupils really excelled themselves: the College also had 11 pupils achieve a grade 9 in Art and its Scientists secured no less than 41 grade 9s.
107 candidates	Headmaster, Ed Hester, continued, "All credit goes to our pupils and staff for their commitment and hard work. Our 2018 A-level and GCSE results are very strong indicators that the school's academic achievements across the ability range continue to go from strength to strength."
34% A* and A	
80% grade C or better	
GCSE summary:	
154 candidates	
43% grades 9-7 or A* to A	
92% grades 9-4 or A* to C	

“
Our students worked so hard and we are
incredibly proud of their achievements.
”

Staff hellos and goodbyes

A school, of course, is only as good as its staff and we are tremendously fortunate to have such a large number of hard-working, caring and dedicated professionals. During the 2017/18 year:

We welcomed:

Julie Aldridge, Annabelle Barnes, Kat Berns, Nick Bonsall, Craig Carolan, Evie Donaldson, Bella Fogarty, Patrick Higgins, Mariana Hunton, Julia Lindsay, Kate Limb, Claire Lloyd, Marion Mitchell, Emma Nobes, Alex Philpot, Lisa Reay, Gavin Rooney, Jan Ryalls, Jacqui Scott, Sarah Sephton, John Seymour, Helen Shayler, Taylor Vaughan, Stephen White and Libby Williams.

And we said goodbye to:

Julie Aldridge, Angie Ash-Golding, Kat Berns, Nick Bonsall, Debs Brookes, Colin Dexter, Evie Donaldson, Ben Gregory, Patrick Higgins, Tim Humpries-Tattam, Kate Limb, Sarah McKeever, Mia Mead, Clare Preston, Tom Secher, Sarah Sellars, Gill Smith, Rob Thomas, Becky Thornton, Claire Tucker, Robert van Spelde, Jenny Vaughan, Taylor Vaughan, Jonathan Washington, Fen Whittle, Libby Williams, Claire Wong and George Wright.

Digby Carrington-Howell stepped down as Deputy Head after nine very successful years as a key member of the Senior Leadership Team; his patience, wisdom and good humour will be sorely missed, although we are delighted to retain his services in the Biology department.

Our longest-serving leaver was **Fen Whittle** who retired from the Mathematics department after 25 years of loyal service. Also in the Mathematics department, **Sarah McKeever** left to take up a post at Warwickshire College.

Sarah Sellars, a stalwart of the Design Technology and Textiles department for the past 16 years left us to move with her family to Shanghai.

Gill Smith our Head of Science and Chemistry retired having been with us for over 13 years.

In the PE department, **Debs Brookes**, Head of Girls' Games retired after over 13 years of excellent service at the College; and we also said goodbye to **Kat Berns** who finished her maternity cover.

Jonathan Washington left in the Michaelmas Term. It was his second stint at Princethorpe, back in 2012 he had worked as a GTA before returning in 2016 to teach English.

Kate Limb moved on from our History department and **Patrick Higgins** finished his temporary assignment with the English department.

In December we said goodbye to Australian Teaching Assistants **Mia Mead** and **Tim Humphries-Tattam** who returned home after nine months working at the College.

Teaching Assistants **Taylor Vaughan**, **Nick Bonsall** and **Libby Williams** made a real impact with pupils over the year and we wish them all well in the next phase of their lives.



“
We wish them all well in
the next phase of their lives.
”



The
Princethorpe
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