



Princethorpe
College

THE Tower REVIEW



**A CELEBRATION OF THE
2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR**



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Celebrating a year in the life of Princethorpe College

Welcome to *The Tower Review* and a celebration of the 2020-2021 school year.

Charting a remarkable year in words and pictures, this year's souvenir edition celebrates the resilience, community and ethos that together make Princethorpe such a very special place.

2020-2021 was undeniably a challenging school year, with restrictions and lockdowns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but that didn't stop the College community pulling together to create many wonderful and memorable moments and plenty of achievement and success.

We hope you enjoy reading *The Tower Review* and reflecting on the year gone by.





Message from the Headmaster

2020/21 was a year of challenge and yet also a year of great resilience and hope, one that on reflection we should all take pride in, as the College community worked together to pull through.

There is so much that still went on this school year, each and every day, whether in school or working and studying from home, and I am sure you will all have your own personal highlights, but in this edition of *The Tower Review* you will find some of the events, successes, stories and achievements that stood out for us.

Pupil Successes

There were so many occasions when pupils inspired us with their creativity, hard work and perseverance: the House Talent Show; Jesus Christ Super Star; the Musical Soiree; the Spring Music Concert; the Summer A-level and GCSE Art, Photography and Design Show; the Fashion Academy Show; seeing the inspirational work produced for da Vinci Awards and for the Pinnacle and of course the wide variety of academic, co-curricular and sporting achievements too.

Congratulations to the many pupils who took part in the UKMT Mathematics awards, and to all those who took on the Physics, Chemistry and Biology Olympiads, stretching themselves to do their best. Then there were the excellent efforts of those taking LAMDA and Music examinations including three Grade 8 Gold Medals in Acting for Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Amelia Burgess and Olivia Rawle.

On the sports field despite all the restrictions the College still managed to compete in 97 sporting fixtures and although it's hard to single out individuals some of the standout performances include: Evie Phillips in the Inter Girls 200m, the Junior Boys Combined Athletics Team, Ben Smith, André Onyekwe, Anjola Okusanya and Vincent McNevin, who won the Midlands Regional Athletics Championships, Cam McGregor and André Onyekwe who qualified for the ESAA School's Athletics Championships and then Seb Bainbridge's 102 runs in the U14s cricket match against Bishop's Versey.

Then there is the multitude of House events at all levels that are always inspiring giving each pupil the opportunity to contribute. The pinnacle of these events is always House Activities Day where every single member of the College is involved. This year the theme was the mystical East and pupils explored Japanese culture and traditions. The event concluded with the popular Japanese pastime of Karaoke as the Houses sang along together.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

It was tremendous to see so many pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, in fact it was a bonus year for expeditions as we had two years' worth to complete. In total 363 pupils took part in 18 expeditions, a truly outstanding effort. It was especially poignant and appropriate to have pupils out on expedition on Saturday 17 April, when along with the nation, pupils observed a minute's silence to remember His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. The positive impact of the Award Scheme on young people has rightly been recognised as one of his greatest achievements. The scheme is a lasting legacy which has inspired generations of Princethorpians over the years.

Charitable Work

In spite of the challenges of fundraising that all charities have faced, the Princethorpe College community once again showed kindness and generosity in abundance raising £11,722.22. The fundraising began with our annual World Porridge Day celebration in October featuring porridge sold at break and a year group welly-wanging competition.

Another memorable fundraising boost was provided by the wonderful PTA whose Burns Night Quiz in January led to a flood of donations to help us fund a daily meal in school for the 620 children at Makalanga School near Blantyre, Malawi. Finally, our annual 24-mile challenge took place on Sunday 4 July and 27 pupils were joined by 11 staff and together they walked more than 885 miles (not excluding the extra miles for slight detours!). Needless to say we are incredibly grateful for the support and generosity of everyone in the Princethorpe College community.

Results Days

The culmination of the academic year is of course August when A-level and GCSE results are published. We strive hard to make sure that each member of the College community makes the most of their own talents. When pupils leave Princethorpe they do so with so much more than a set of certificates, but we do take great pride in helping all out pupils achieve the very best academic results.

In spite of the unprecedented challenges that the last 16 months presented, Princethorpe College celebrated another year of excellent exam results. We were of course delighted with the exceptionally high number of well-deserved top grades, but we are also proud of all our pupils who worked so hard to overcome the challenges this year presented. The majority of Year 11 progressed on to Sixth Form to continue their studies and we bade a fond farewell to our Upper Sixth leavers as they made their way on to the next stage of their lives. Ably equipped with the qualities of kindness, respect, determination and friendship which we as a community hold so dear.

2020/21 really was a challenging year and I want to thank everyone for their consistent and continuous support, it was enormously appreciated by all staff.

Enjoy reliving the year with the help of *The Tower Review*.

E D Hester
Headmaster

Michaelmas News

01

New Year 7s have an action packed Activity Day

Friday 28 August was an exciting day for 116 Year 7 pupils who were joining Princethorpe College. For this latest generation of Princethorpians, the Activity Day was a chance for them to finally meet their new classmates, familiarise themselves with the layout of the school, get a feel for the sorts of lessons they could expect and to generally ask questions, allay any fears and ease the transition to secondary school.

The incoming Year 7s arrived looking excited and a little bit nervous in readiness for an action-packed day. They participated in fun team building activities including a Scavenger Hunt, took part in an informative Q&A with their new Head of House and enjoyed an afternoon Games lesson. It was a flying start to secondary school that helped them get ready for the new term.



02

College Celebrates Journée Européenne des Langues 2020

At the College there are many opportunities to get excited about languages and celebrating European Day Of Languages is just one of them. This year the House and MFL teams challenged Year 7 pupils to take part in a fun break-time language trivia quiz and the Year 7s gathered excitedly hoping to win points for their House.

For the rest of the school there was a House Challenge to creatively explore European and International cultures. It was great fun whilst helping to inspire all our pupils too.

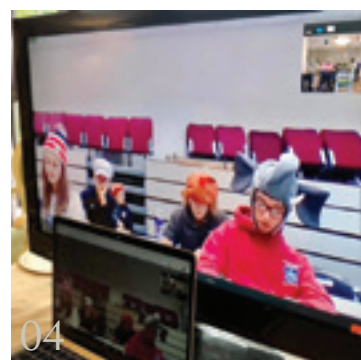
03

Princethorpe Sixth Former Stan Brocklebank awarded prestigious Arkwright Scholarship

Lower Sixth Former, Stan Brocklebank was awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. The accolade from The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's leading STEM Education Charity, is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK.

On receiving the news, Stan said, "These scholarships are one of a kind for people who are young and aspiring engineers."

Arkwright Scholarships are highly sought after as they provide exceptional support. Pupils who successfully obtain an award have access to unparalleled opportunities. Arkwright Engineering Scholars achieve excellent academic success and are known to make enviable career progress.



04

Zoom Bingo with Cubbington Mill

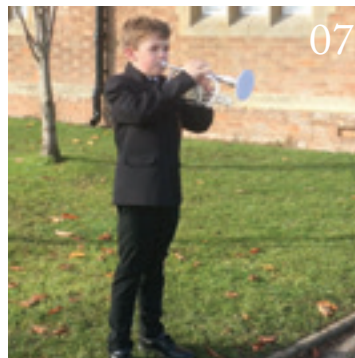
Sixth Form students challenged the residents at Barchester Healthcare's Cubbington Mill Care Home to a game of Zoom bingo. One of a number of care homes that the students traditionally visit, it was a great way for the Sixth Formers and residents to stay in touch.

The Sixth Form students all wore silly hats which made the residents laugh and in return Cubbington Mill's very own Shakespeare and resident ambassador Gerald wrote a poem for the occasion. It was great fun and wonderful to see the old and the young just enjoying the moment.

Michaelmas News



06



05

Princethorpe College Roving Library

With pupils unable to go to the library, owing to COVID restrictions, the library went to the pupils! As well as offering a Click and Collect service, Princethorpe Prime, the library's book trolley initiative, was rolled out literally, with Mrs O'Connor visiting KS3 English lessons to share recommendations and books. It was great to see pupils continuing their personal reading journeys.

06

Princethorpe Mathematicians put to the challenge

Pupils from Princethorpe College took part in the 2020 UK Mathematics Trust Senior Challenge, a prestigious national problem-solving competition that recognises the best young mathematicians in the country. Princethorpe selected 18 able mathematicians from both Lower and Upper Sixth to participate in the demanding exercise designed to stretch and test pupils' mathematical skills.

Congratulations went to Upper Sixth Former, Lauren Mason, who was awarded a Gold certificate, and took the award for best performing student in school. Silver certificate winners were: Ben Scares, Rowan Tankard, Zack Ahmed, Ciaran Smith and Pablo Scopes while Bronze certificate winners were: Anthony Convey, Joshua Rawlings, Daisy Walker, Jack Fletcher, Caitlin Mason and Thomas Cleaver-Cavalier.

07

Princethorpe observed Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11 November, just before 11.00am, the College community fell silent to reflect on the bravery and the selfless sacrifice made by so many of our country's service men and women.

This year's Remembrance Service was virtual, with pupils remaining in their Tutor group classrooms but our community still paused to pay their respects.

Deputy Head Pastoral, Beth Sharpe began by reading a short poem by Marian Allen from the anthology *Scars Upon My Heart* before Father Alan Whelan MSC said a prayer. Head of Physics, Dan Lee and Chemistry Teacher, Emilie Onyekwe solemnly read the list of the Princethorpe fallen, before Year 7 Henry Corbin confidently sounded the melancholic notes of the *Last Post*.

The Headmaster, Ed Hester then spoke to the school community before saying a final prayer for peace.

08

Lower Sixth practise interview technique

To better equip our Lower Sixth Formers for the challenge of interviews, the College's Sixth Form team organised a mock Interview Day. For the first time, the Interview Day took place virtually and 124 Lower Sixth students participated. Each interview was conducted by one of 22 professionals, many with senior management experience, who had kindly volunteered their time.

There was some fantastic feedback from the interviewers, including, "I was really impressed by the maturity of the students. They were all very positive in their attitude and a delight to work with" and "What an enjoyable morning I had with some clearly talented Princethorpe students."

Michaelmas News



09

Princethorpe's Upper Sixth Physicists rise to the challenge

Perhaps the most challenging Physics test available to Sixth Form students, set by the British Physics Olympiad, was tackled by some of Princethorpe's finest Physicists with resounding success. Congratulations to Thomas Cleaver-Cavalier, Damien Cowie, Mia Hornett, Jack Neale, Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey, Alex Rejali, Isaac Ryan, Oli Thomas, Josh Tidd, Will Marshall, Hugo Petry, Matt Wills, Jack Fletcher, George Saunders, Daisy Walker and a very special mention to Lauren Mason who achieved the highest possible accolade of Merit.

10

GCSE Drama pupils performed an ensemble of key scenes from *Blood Brothers*

On Monday 30 November, Year 11 GCSE Drama pupils performed an ensemble of key scenes from Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*. The powerful tale of twins separated at birth, and the consequences of that decision, mesmerised the small socially distanced audience of their peers and teachers. In the intimacy of the Clarkson Theatre and against a stark background of Liverpoolian slums the pupils delivered a performance full of emotion and feeling. A huge well done to them all and a special mention for Keira who was a last-minute stand-in for the main role.



11

OP Jonathan Gullis spoke to Sixth Formers about his journey to becoming an MP

Old Princethorpean Jonathan Gullis MP joined us virtually on Friday 3 December to talk to Sixth Form students about his journey to becoming a Member of Parliament. From the inspiration of his former History teacher, Dr Simon Peaple, through his experiences as a local councillor and then on to the process of selection and finally election success, his talk gave an interesting insight into the ambition, dedication and hard work required to achieve his 'dream'.

Jonathan also took time to answer Sixth Form Politics students' questions, gamely facing our very own trainee Paxmans with fortitude. A whole range of topics were discussed from the 'levelling up' agenda so important to his own constituency, Stoke North, to the impact of COVID on the parliamentary process, the effect of the party whip on democracy, mental health and even who was his favourite Prime Minister.

12

Josh Tidd wins college Physics Essay Prize

Upper Sixth Former, Josh Tidd was awarded the College's first Physics Essay Prize for his piece on acoustic levitation. Head of Physics, Dan Lee, presented a surprised Josh with his prize to much applause from his peers.

The students had been challenged to write Physics essays on a subject of their choice as an extension task for their curriculum studies.

Mr Lee, explains, "I enjoyed reading all of the essays but Josh's essay stood out because he expertly explained the concept of acoustic levitation and extrapolated this on to consider the theoretical levitation of a person. It was an excellent and well written piece. Well done, Josh."



Michaelmas News



College Artists recognised in prestigious ISA National Art Competition

In November, the College was delighted to hear that 2020 Upper Sixth leavers, Dominic Turner-Burr and Sebastian Lloyd-Thomas had both been awarded prizes in the Independent Schools' Association's prestigious Midlands Regional Art Competition

Dominic's winning work, titled *Fighting Back*, was part of his A-level portfolio. It took first place in the Key Stage 5 Photography category. His striking image explored the challenge of managing the negativity that people experience in their daily lives. It depicted how using numbers and codes helps people to identify and label different coping strategies.

Sebastian's stunning painting, *Interpreting The Signs* took second place in the Key Stage 5 3D Class. Sebastian investigated 'Vanitas', still-life paintings including symbolic objects designed to remind the viewer of their mortality. Building on his studies, his work commented on the world in the wake of COVID.



Princethorpe College Head of Art, Paul Hubball, was delighted and applauded the prize winners, "The results reflect the depth of talent we have within our school. This year we were limited to only one entry per category, so we were especially pleased that two of the four works we submitted received a prize."

Dominic's winning work went forward to the ISA National Art Competition, the judging for which took place in the Spring of 2021, where he was also awarded first prize.

Paul Hubball continued, "Dom was a worthy recipient of the National award. His entry was exceptional and a product of the many hours of work he put into it. It was marvellous to see his talent rewarded in this way."

Michaelmas Sport



Super Saturday morning of Athletics

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils enjoyed a super morning of athletics on Saturday 12 September. Hosted by the College's PE and Games staff, they took part in a friendly competition that replaced the College's annual summer Sports Day, that had been much missed during the pandemic lockdown.

It was a fantastic morning of friendly, but competitive sport. Field and track events took place simultaneously so the playing fields were action-packed from the moment the starting gun fired. College staff were kept busy measuring, timing and recording all the running, jumping and throwing taking place.

Year 7 and Year 8 remained in their bubbles on the upper and lower sports grounds swapping mid-morning as they moved from field to track events.

Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, said, "It was great to see so many pupils coming out on a Saturday morning to take part. There were plenty of excellent performances and the atmosphere was amazing, pupils were enthusiastic and supportive of each other, appreciating every individual effort. I was impressed by their attitude and determination to do their best."



Michaelmas Sport

Princethorpe pupils help Rugby and East Warwickshire Hockey to National success

Lower Sixth Former Erin Darcy, Year 11 Evie Phillips and Year 10 Tilly Houghton together with recent leavers Gracie Gerrard and Lucy Gribben (not pictured) were part of the Rugby and East Warwickshire Hockey Club Girls U18 Team that was crowned Tier 3 National U18 Champions in September 2020. Playing at the Nottingham Hockey Centre the Rugby and East Warwickshire team beat Bury St. Edmonds U18 Girls claiming victory with a resounding 11-1 win. The U18 Boys were also crowned Tier 3 National Champions too and their team included OP Will Cooper-Harris who had just completed his A-levels at Princethorpe College.



Two talented hockey players trial for England U16 Hockey Teams

Princethorpe College Year 10 pupil, James Robinson, and Year 11 pupil, Lara Tripp-Smith, trialled for the England U16 Hockey Teams over the October half term.

Over three days coaches drawn from England U16 and Regional Performance Centres observed the players, looking at technical, tactical, physical and mental development qualities, considering their current performance and future potential.



Two college netballers training with Academy Programmes

Two Princethorpe College netball players were selected for local Academy Programmes to develop competitive players. Year 11 pupil, Eve Farquharson joined the Rugby Hub of the Wasps Netball Academy Pathway Programme. Playing for the U17s, Eve received training from Wasps' coaches and took part in matches and tournaments.

Upper Sixth Former, Emelia Tubb restarted her performance training with the Loughborough Lightning Academy. Emelia was a player in the U19 Squad that plays in National Performance League competitions. First selected last year, Emelia was delighted to be back in training. It was fantastic news for them both and even better for the College squads.



Prize Giving 2020

Virtual Prize Giving celebrates pupils' exceptional achievements



Another exceptional year of achievement, progress, creativity and contribution was celebrated at Princethorpe College's annual Prize Giving Ceremony on Friday 20 November. This year the ceremony took place virtually, with the Class of 2020, their parents, staff and friends of the College coming together through Zoom.

Hosted by Headmaster, Ed Hester, members of the community logged on from 165 locations to join in the celebrations. Before the ceremony started, Peter Rollason, Chair of the Old Princethorpians Committee welcomed the newest OPs sharing his insights into the support the network can provide.

In his formal address the Headmaster, Ed Hester, gave thanks to all those who make Princethorpe the special place it is. In this year of all years his warm words paid tribute to all that is done by so many in support of the College, underpinning the success stories of all the Upper Sixth leavers and not just those who received prizes on the evening.

The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school Orchestra, who, accompanied by stunning graphics, performed a mesmerising rendition of *Earth* and the school choir who inspirationally sang the very appropriate *Seize The Day*.

Then it was time for the presentation of the awards. Listening to the citations was truly inspiring and humbling. The talent in evidence, the grit and determination, the passion, enthusiasm and commitment were all applauded and honoured.

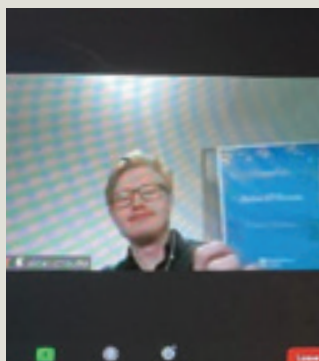
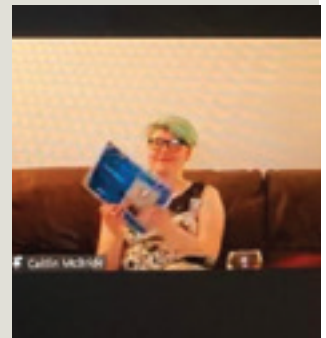
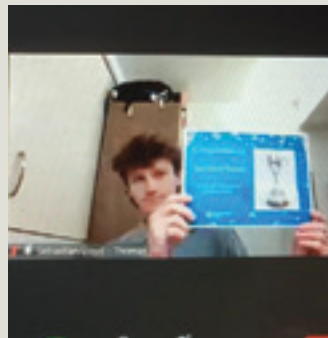
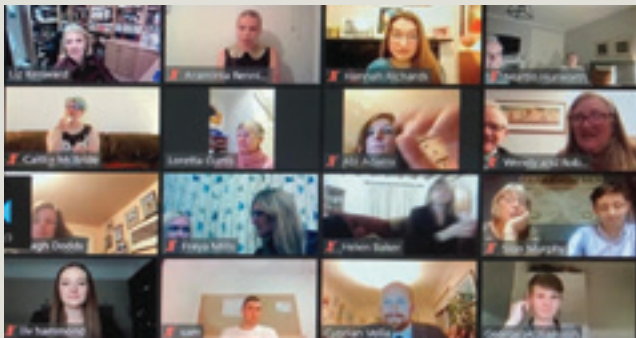
Prize Giving 2020

And finally, it was time for the main award, 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. It was a very popular decision, with the audience cheering a delighted and surprised Katie Shorten who was thrilled to receive the Shield.

Then to close the proceedings the Head Girl, Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey, and Head Boy, Jack Neale, gave an eloquent vote of thanks before the evening finally came to an end with the enthusiastic singing of the College Hymn, *Here I Am Lord* by the online assembled throng.



“The atmosphere all evening was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school Orchestra.”



Charity



01 Princethorpe's Porridge Pots support World Porridge Day

Pupils and staff marked World Porridge Day by raising money for the Scottish charity Mary's Meals. Championed as always by the College's Sixth Form, pupils participated in an abundance of Scottish and porridge fundraising fun.

At break time pupils were invited to dig deep and purchase a traditional Scottish breakfast, a pot of porridge. The Scottish theme continued at lunchtime, where only the brave participated in the William Wallace Welly Wanging Challenge. Pupils enthusiastically flung, hurled, chucked and tossed the wellies across the fields.

The winning throw came from Year 11 pupil, Harry Cheshire with a magnificent throw of 32.8m for Benet House, Mr Hester was a close second for Fisher at 31.3m. Year 11 pupil, Evie Phillips, from More House, threw her welly a tremendous 23m to claim the longest throw for the girls.



02 Sixth Formers fundraise for Breast Cancer charities

Sixth Formers celebrated 'Pink Day' on Friday 16 October and in true Princethorpe tradition they embraced the challenge. The Sixth Form Centre turned pink and the corridors across the College were graced with all sorts of pink costumes and onesies.

For the rest of the school it was non uniform day with pupils donating a small amount of cash to support the Sixth Form fundraising efforts. Thanks to some star bakers the coffers were swelled with a break time cake sale and everyone had a fun day at the end of the half term.



03 Generous pupils support Parish Teams4U Shoebox Appeal

A grand total of 115 boxes were collected by pupils for the annual Christmas Shoebox appeal. Packed full of little gifts and essentials the boxes were distributed by Teams4U to vulnerable children in communities they work with.

This year the donations were all collected through the College's Tutor Groups and it was wonderful to see the whole school community supporting the appeal. Thanks went to all but especially to AFR, FMT and FDL Tutor Groups who collected the most.

Thanks also to Junior Chaplaincy Prefect and Year 9 pupil, Jernima Teeton who worked tirelessly helping to sort and pack all the boxes.



04 Pupils and parents respond generously to Chaplaincy Foodbank Challenge

Every member of the school was asked to bring in one item of food for the Chaplaincy Foodbank Challenge and the community did not disappoint, showing a sense of empathy, generosity and solidarity that at one stage led to the school's Prayer Room overflowing with boxes and bags of donations.

The level of enthusiasm and support was amazing, affirming the school's spirit of family ethos and showing that pupils embrace the communities they live in and are willing to help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

The non-perishable goods were collected by the charity St Vincent de Paul Society, and shared between the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Carriers of Hope and Warwick District Foodbank.

Christmas



House Sixth Form Christmas Tree Competition



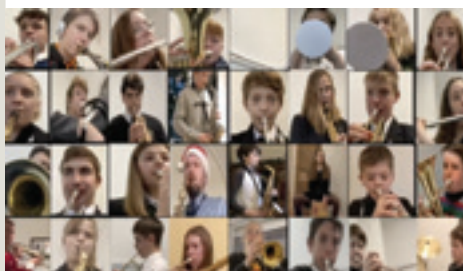
Sixth Form House teams gathered excitedly for the annual House Christmas Tree competition.

Four teams of six students rolled up their sleeves and began quickly piecing together the jigsaw of branches. Lights were unravelled and artistically draped, decorations hung and then with seconds to spare, and a final stretch, stars were positioned on top.

Judging considered the originality, appearance, balance and House spirit and the results were in first place Austin followed by Fisher, Benet and then More.



Musical Christmas Soiree



It's traditional at Christmas for the College to host a Soirée to showcase pupils' wonderful music and performance skills. This year the Music department had to do things a little differently, but that didn't stop the fun.

Hosted by Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, from his sofa at home, the College presented a musical cornucopia of delights showcasing our pupil performers' love of Christmas time. It included 21 different acts all fabulously festive and accompanied by plenty of Christmas jumpers. A wonderful slice of something special at Christmas time.



Henry's Stained-Glass Stunner was the winning Christmas card design

The College Christmas card competition was won by Year 9 Art Scholar, Henry Woodrow. His vibrant painting portrayed the traditional Christmas nativity scene as a stained-glass window. It was a stunning image, simple and yet so effective.



Chapel Christmas Tree a testament to the presence of Love in the World



The Christmas tree in the College Chapel was once again lovingly decorated with twinkling lights and hand-cut stars, each holding the name of a special someone.

It is a College tradition that every Christmas the community is invited to write on a star the names of those who have touched their lives with love and who have a special place in their hearts.

This year the Chaplaincy Prefects cut out stars for pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 who wrote on them as part of their Advent reflection, to keep the tradition alive.



Parents Carol Service brings much needed Christmas Cheer



Parents and friends of the College joined a special Virtual Carol Service at Princethorpe's Our Lady of the Angels Chapel on Monday 14 December. The College had produced a pre-recorded video to ensure the popular Parents' Carol Service could still take place. Following the traditional format, it included readings, carols and prayers, retelling the Christmas story.



Sixth Form senior citizens Zoom Christmas Concert

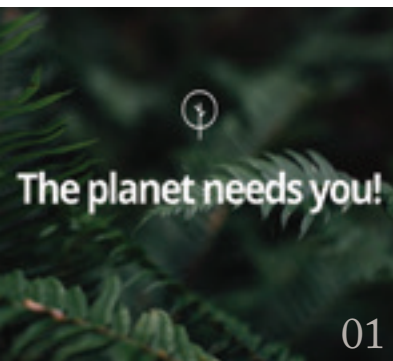


Early in December, a group of Sixth Form students hosted a virtual Christmas Concert on Zoom for local care homes. The event replaced the traditional Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.

Featuring music, songs, jokes and even a Christmas quiz, the concert was part of an ongoing programme of virtual activities the Sixth Formers organised for local care homes.

The concert was a great example of Princethorpe's 'spirit of family', helping to keep our communities connected.

Lent News



01 The Planet Needs You

Princethorpe College relaunched its school 'environmental team' to rally pupils and staff to address the global crisis of climate change.

Pupils' skills, passion, enthusiasm and experience are vital for driving such an initiative forward, not just for the College but for the wider world. Through our individual small actions, the many marginal gains will all come together to make a big difference.

Assistant Head, Co-curricular, Neil McCollin, said, "Princethorpe is keen to see sustainability embedded in everything that we do, having pupils take the lead on environmental issues will make a great difference. I can't wait to see what ideas the group bring to fruition."



02

02 Princethorpe Celebrates LAMDA Examination success

Pupils at Princethorpe College celebrated outstanding results in their LAMDA examinations. Forty-two were awarded a Distinction, with a number of candidates achieving over 90%, including Mark Dunkley with an impressive 94 marks for Reading for Performance - Grade 6, and Grace Isaacs who received an outstanding 97 marks for Acting Solo - Grade 6. Charlotte Fitzpatrick also gained a Distinction for her Grade 8 Gold Medal Acting Solo examination.

Many pupils at Princethorpe College take peripatetic LAMDA lessons devoting additional time to the study of the performing arts. The qualifications equip pupils with communication skills which will serve them throughout life.

LAMDA Co-ordinator, Kathy Buckingham-Underhill, was thoroughly delighted, saying, "These results reflect the hard work that pupils put into learning and rehearsing their pieces. The examiners were very impressed with the performances presented by the candidates commenting on their ability to swap character persona with such ease."



03 Oxbridge offers for high-flying Princethorpe Sixth Formers

Four Princethorpe College Sixth Form students were thrilled to receive offers for places at Oxford and Cambridge University.

Oxbridge places are highly oversubscribed and increasingly competitive, so these talented students faced a tough selection process consisting of pre-tests, intensive scrutiny of their academic and personal achievements and rigorous interviews.

Princethorpe College Head of Sixth Form, Ben Collie, commented, "Lauren Mason, Grace McGrory, James Gallagher and Hannah Porter have earned this success. During their time at Princethorpe College they have applied themselves to their academic studies and to developing themselves as confident and mature young people. We were delighted to support them with their applications and are exceptionally proud of their achievement."

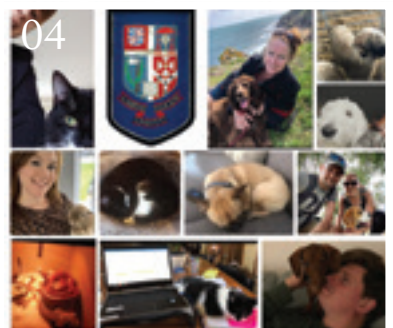


04 An assembly with Fisher's furry friends

When Louisa Fielding, Head of Fisher House, invited pupils to bring their pets to assembly, the result was beyond expectations with a whole variety of furry (and not so furry) friends joining in the fun. Lockdown had been difficult and while pupils had adapted and adjusted to remote learning, the lack of interaction was a challenge for us all.

Noticeably many more cameras were on and gazing around there were huge smiles everywhere and an awful lot of animals. Princethorpe's pupils and staff clearly appreciate their pets with dogs, cats, fish, rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs all logging on.

After all the introductions, the assembly kicked off with Mrs Fielding talking about the many benefits of owning a pet. Fisher's assembly broke down barriers and built engagement and provided lots of lovely interaction for us all.



Lent News



05

PTA Burns Night Quiz was a winner for all

In January the College PTA hosted a super Scottish themed extravaganza in aid of Mary's Meals, a charity close to Princethorpe's heart. The virtual quiz celebrated Burns Night and proved to be a fabulous evening of fun.

Featuring Rabbin Burns' renowned poetry, with a rendition of the great bard's *Address To A Haggis*, it included six rounds of 10 questions each, with topics such as Geography, Music, Sport, Celebrities, Landmarks and General Knowledge all with a Scottish slant.

The quiz was free, but families were asked to donate to Mary's Meals and the evening included a short insight into Princethorpe's fundraising for the school feeding programme at Makalanga School in Malawi.

The evening was excellent lockdown entertainment. It was great to see everyone having such a good time. The real winners though, thanks to everyone's amazing generosity, were the children at Makalanga School. Huge thanks to all who took part!

06

Princethorpe pupils rise to the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

In February pupils took part in the 2021 UKMT Intermediate Challenge, a national problem-solving competition that recognises the best young mathematicians in the country. The Intermediate Challenge is aimed at Years 9, 10 and 11 and 71 Princethorpe pupils took part.

Congratulations went to Will Hawkins in Year 11, who was awarded a Gold certificate, and took the award for best performing pupil in school. Silvie Brocklebank-Crowder and Oliver Edgar also received Gold certificates. Silver certificates were awarded to: Ed Sharpe, Zak Abba, Harry Kelly, Rahul Samra, William Gibson-Sexton, Alexander Leret, Harry Hewitt, Radley Evans, Joe Glover, Madoc Williams and Joseph Newborough. Bronze certificates were awarded to: Ben Smith, Dominic Lee, Joel Simon, Adam Ledbrook, Ollie Hutton, Timoth   Peyret, Alex Allison, Emma Sarkies, Priya Somel, Zak Johnson, Joseph Simon, Jamie Smith, Noella Mbang, Lauren Bach, Jack Dando and Anjola Okusanya.

07

Chloe Potts wins local Charity Poetry Competition

Year 8, Chloe Potts won the Warwickshire-based charity Kissing It Better's poetry competition. More than 70 children entered the competition, helping to light up the lockdown for residents of the Leicester House care home with their poems, and Chloe was one of two winners in the 11 to 14 years age group.

Caty Oates, Project Director at Kissing it Better commented, "The quality of writing was incredibly high and the residents were impressed with the powerful imagery in many of the children's poems." Head of Benet House and English teacher, Miss Challinor, commented, "Chloe's poem was beautiful and moving. We are all very proud of her."

08

Daniel Awarded a Merit in prestigious Oxford Computing Challenge

The Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) is an invitational event for those who finished in the top 10% of the UK Bebras Challenge. Both challenges test skills such as logical thinking, pattern identification and decomposition but the OUCC encourages pupils to develop their skills one stage further and consists of three sections of problems for pupils to solve.

Year 7 pupil, Daniel Owens Gibbs competed in the Junior section against just over 2,700 pupils who had qualified for this year's competition. Daniel finished in the top 15%, achieving a Merit grade for his work, a really super result. Head of Computer Science, Adam Depledge said, "This is a really fantastic achievement by Daniel. Computational thinking is an incredibly useful and powerful skill and Daniel has shown he has mastered it to a level well beyond his years."

Lent News



09

Student success in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad

The UK Chemistry Olympiad is a national chemistry competition run by the Royal Society Of Chemistry. Hosted annually, it is aimed at students in the Sixth Form and offers a unique opportunity for students to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills and test their existing knowledge of chemistry in situations from the real-world.

All three Upper Sixth students who took part in the 2021 Chemistry Olympiad received certificates. Lauren Mason and Alex Rejali were awarded Silver certificates, placing them in the top 23% of all the participants. Lizzie Ridd was just one mark off a Bronze and received a well-earned participation certificate. The Princethorpe trio faced tough national competition and we congratulate them all on their excellent results.

10

New French and Spanish Reading Resources

The Library and MFL department were delighted to launch a new collection of popular books written in French and Spanish for pupils to use within their MFL lessons. The idea for the collection came about as a result of a request made by Jess Lane in Year 8 via the Student Council, and was generously financed by the College PTA.

The collection includes popular titles such as *Harry Potter*, *Matilda*, *BFG* and the characters *Max and Lili*. There are also short stories, picture books and factual information books for all ages. A super idea from Jess to encourage pupils to extend their vocabulary and comprehension in a relaxing and fun way.

11

Physics Olympiads

The Lower Sixth took part in the Physics Senior Olympiad while in home learning and while being challenging, it offered a valuable experience for the aspiring young Physicists. The challenge helped students approach problems with a different outlook: considering the basic principles of Physics and recognising patterns that allowed them to apply what they had learnt to real-life challenges. Congratulations to all who were awarded certificates: Archie Hancock – Silver, Louis Beck, Joshua Rawlings, Ben Scares, Caitlin Mason, Mary Lomas and Charlie Wollaston – Bronze, Daniel Hatfield and Stan Brocklebank - Commendation.

Five Year 11 Physicists took part in the Intermediate Olympiad. It's a competition with really challenging problems that go well beyond the standard curriculum. Due to the pandemic, this year's competition took the format of two 25-minute multiple choice papers sat online and congratulations go to Princethorpe's pupils, who were all awarded certificates: Will Hawkins, Tom Knight and Madoc Williams – Silver, Harry Scott – Bronze and Ed Foster – Commendation. It was a great enrichment activity for the boys.

12

Year 11 receive their Leavers' Hoodies

In March Year 11 pupils were able to collect their Leavers' hoodies and they were all quick to put them on. Now a tradition for most schools, we know that the hoodies will always be a tangible memory of their time at Princethorpe and their fellow pupils. They provide a sense of belonging and of community and in the long distant future we hope they will prompt wonderful memories of their Princethorpe school days.

Science Week

Princethorpe College Celebrates British Science Week

In March Princethorpe College took part in British Science Week, taking the opportunity to celebrate Science and Technology. The theme for the week was **Innovating For The Future** and the College organised plenty of exciting events, challenges and competitions. Activities focused on enabling pupils to develop skills such as being observant and logical, as well as creative and imaginative, which are all needed to be successful in scientific careers.

The STEAM Prefects, Lauren Mason and Praj Prabakaran led an assembly on *Smashing Stereotypes In Science* to challenge preconceived ideas about what scientists look like and share the diversity and the variety of scientific paths that can be pursued. They highlighted that not all scientists wear white coats and work in a lab!

Then Lauren Mason organised the College STEAM essay competition, a challenge to write a 300-500 word essay about an inspirational STEAM innovator and she was delighted with the response. After careful consideration prizes were awarded as follows:

- 1st** Jack Dando (Benet, Year 9) for his essay on Peter Zumthor, a Swiss architect
- 2nd** Mia Petrucci (More, Year 7) for her essay on Erin Smith, a teenager who developed AI technology used to detect early signs of Parkinson's disease
- 3rd** Amaanya Bose (Austin, Year 9) for her essay on Issey Miyake, an innovative Japanese textiles designer.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 were asked to create posters for a competition on the theme of **Innovating For The Future** featuring their own ideas or exploring innovations that have made a difference.

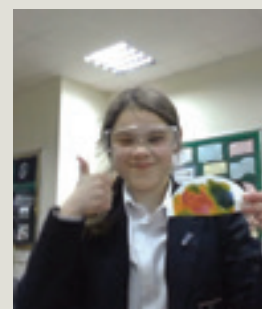
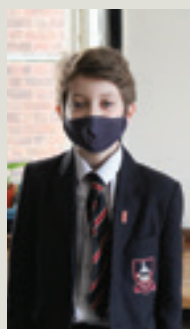
They were presented with their prizes by Mrs Roberts when they returned to school in March, congratulations to Soren Wasley, Kaena Wasley, Isla Farrelly, Jess Sarkies, Ben Jones, Pip Evans, Penelope Jones, Noah Nix, Cara Ridd, Martha Harris and Jonjo Boyle.

Older pupils saw success in Science Olympiads, national competitions to stretch and challenge pupils on their knowledge of the curriculum and beyond. They were a great opportunity to show their wider knowledge and interest in the different scientific fields.

In school in Science lessons, pupils in Years 7 to 9 studied the landing of the Perseverance Rover on Mars and how much of our own oceans are still unexplored. Pupils investigated how submarines work by modelling them with carrots and created fish pictures using acids and alkalis, while also learning about the damaging impact of microplastics on the oceans of our world.

Then there were the 'Kitchen Science Experiments' for pupils to take part, all explained by our enthusiastic Science Ambassadors.

British Science Week was an inspirational opportunity to celebrate innovation and science and Princethorpe really enjoyed getting involved.



Jesus Christ Superstar

Virtual production a world first for Princethorpe

Princethorpe College's entirely virtual production of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a world first and the culmination of an astounding year of ingenuity for the Music and Performing Arts team.

Available for just eight days, over Easter, the powerful performance telling the story of Christ's arrest and crucifixion was both moving and incredible. Together, Directors Jess Newborough and Gil Cowlshaw and their mighty team of Princethorpe players delivered a completely virtual production that simply took your breath away.



After the announcement of the lockdown in January, and in agreement with the rights holders, who also confirmed this had never been attempted before, pupils individually recorded virtual performances that were then edited together to produce a completely virtual show. Featuring all the classic rock musical numbers that everyone loves, including *Gethsemane*, *I Don't Know How To Love Him* and the mighty anthem *Superstar*.

Gil Cowlshaw, Director of Music, explained, "In 'normal' times, we would have never been allowed to make a movie musical but the College has proved that virtual performances can work. It took a lot of determination and 'can do' Princethorpe spirit but the hours of rehearsing, performance and editing were certainly worth it."

Huge congratulations to the cast and crew for their vision, tenacity and sheer effort in putting it all together and as feedback on the production enthusiastically said 'You completely owned it' and 'We are absolutely astounded by you all!'



Lent Charity

Despite the pandemic Princethorpe's Classrooms for Malawi Project was successfully completed

In the summer of 2020, 25 pupils and four staff should have travelled out to Malawi to visit the African country where Mary's Meals, a charity close to the College's heart, first began. There they would have taken part in a two-week project with the charity Classrooms For Malawi, helping to refurbish a school block at Lauderdale Primary School.

Lauderdale School was the first school that Princethorpe College worked with in Malawi when back in 2007/8 pupils fundraised to provide new kitchens to support the Mary's Meals feeding programme at the school.

Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Rod Isaacs, explains, "After more than 10 years of fundraising, we were looking to take the College's charity work in Malawi one step further and a project to refurbish school buildings was a perfect choice, providing opportunity through education for the local community while allowing our pupils to actively contribute. We were introduced to Classrooms For Malawi and it all began from there."

A significant part of the Malawi 2020 project challenge was for pupils to raise the funds to pay for materials and supplies for the classroom refurbishment project. So, throughout 2019 pupils organised a series fundraising events that together raised £10,174. Marathon runs, wreath making, music concerts, stall at Christmas fairs, CDs, sponsored outdoor swims and sponsorship from the annual 24-mile Sixth Form walk around the Coventry Way all contributed to the total.

With the onset of the pandemic, schools across the world were impacted and like many, the schools in Malawi were forced to close. Eventually the sad decision was taken to cancel the College trip. However, all was not lost as the classroom refurbishment project was able to continue. The work was undertaken by local building contractors supported by the community, and the funds raised by the College were used to fund the materials and labour required.

Work on the project began in August 2020 with the removal of the roof and breeze block windows. Supporting beams were strengthened, new windows and roofing installed, drainage issues addressed, the floors levelled, the walls freshly painted, and chalk blackboards installed. The work was finished in January 2021 and the classrooms were immediately in use.

Amy Blake, Chief Executive of the charity Classrooms For Malawi, said, "This project was amazing and the help and support from Princethorpe College has been so commendable especially given the circumstances. We are just so sorry the team didn't make it across to Malawi to help with the refurbishment. Lauderdale School and the local community are delighted with their building. It's made a real difference to their ability to provide an education for their children. I really hope that one day the Princethorpe's pupils can visit Malawi to see the result."



“
This project was amazing and the help and support from Princethorpe College has been so commendable especially given the circumstances.
”

Lent Sport



Sports Festival

During the lockdown there was no excuse for not keeping active as the PE staff ran live workouts on TEAMS - parents were invited to join in the fun too!

Then post the lockdown the Sports Department hosted sports festivals and were delighted that nearly 250 pupils took part. Despite the blustery spring weather, there was plenty of enthusiasm and plain sheer joy at being back out on the pitches and everyone had lots of fun.

Pupils in Years 7 and Year 10 took part in Mixed Hockey tournaments while those in Year 8 and Year 9 took on the challenge of Netball and Football competitions.



Lent Sport

“

Despite the blustery spring weather, there was plenty of enthusiasm and plain sheer joy at being back out on the pitches and everyone had lots of fun.

”



Careers Fair

Princethorpe's Virtual Careers Fair offers insights into a wealth of opportunities

The College's fifth Careers Fair took place virtually but that didn't stop it offering a wealth of insightful information and advice about a whole host of careers. Headmaster, Ed Hester welcomed a capacity crowd of pupils, parents, staff and contributors, all online, on Saturday 20 March, for what proved to be an informative and very valuable event.



“
Dr Cowie's initial
talk was just
amazing and so
inspiring on so
many levels.
”



Thirty-seven 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 Veterinary, Engineering, Cyber-Security and Social Work, individual presentations gave pupil attendees from Year 10 to Sixth Form 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, Dr Charlotte Cowie, Head of Medicine at the Football Association. Dr Cowie's address was full of words of wisdom. She began by sharing her route to her current role, the challenges and opportunities faced along the way and the breadth of responsibilities it includes. Before moving on to talk about the different career opportunities available in her industry. Her three myth busters were applicable to us all, encouraging but to the point they summarised the reality of the working world. Her advice that 'talent is not enough – it is discretionary effort that counts', 'you need to learn to love what you do' and 'you don't have to know what you want to do – just fake it until you make it' are applicable to anyone at any stage in their career in any industry. Dr Cowie spoke from the heart and was inspiring to all.

Thanking Dr Cowie, 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 and universities and life post Princethorpe.

Across the morning pupils attended three virtual sessions, for many this was their first step on the career ladder and it enabled pupils to have a taste of some of the different sorts of career choices available to them. Feedback was certainly very positive with parents and pupils commenting on how useful and informative the event was.

We are immensely grateful to all the Old Princethorpians, parents, contributors and staff who supported the Careers Fair and to the Careers Team for their organisation of the event.

Prefects

Virtual Inauguration Ceremony welcomes new Princethorpe Prefect Body



The new Princethorpe College Prefect Body and Subject Ambassadors for 2021-2022 took on their new roles at the start of the Trinity Term. The students were confirmed in their new roles and presented with their badges of office in school on Friday 19 March.

The College gave warm thanks to the outgoing prefects and ambassadors, they had given great service and wished good luck to the new prefect body and subject ambassadors for the year ahead.

2021/22 Prefect Body

Head Girl	Caitlin Mason	Social Prefects	Mairead Kelly Olivia Ward
Head Boy	Anthony Convey	Charity Prefects	Joe England Hannah McBride
Deputy Head Girls	Nell Johnston Victoria Heritage	Junior Chaplaincy Prefects	Andre Barnett Sean Birtley Zoe Shayler Conor Horan Jemima Teeton Marco Rodriguez Hernandez
Deputy Head Boys	Ben Scares Ciaran Smith	Chaplaincy Prefect	Joe Hammon Ferraz
Pastoral Prefects (incorporating House Pastoral Prefects)	Amberqway Alford Ella Mason Jack Collins Sabrina Proietti-Tocca Jessie Crawford Eve Richardson Ishbel Kempton Mia Sen-Gupta Mary Lomas Archie Shields Izzy Harrington Emily Scrivens	Academic Prefects	Harpreet Birdi Sebastian Dibb Mathura Elamurugan Tobias Lambe Remo Volpe
Austin House Captains	Sam Warne Rachel Timms	Marketing and Communications Prefects	Amelia Burgess Max Passantino
Benet House Captains	Tom Spencer Elsie Kelley	Environment Prefect	Robyn Field
Fisher House Captains	Greg Burford Elizabeth Boyes	Games Prefects	Connor Cooke Lucia McCosker-New Cam McGregor Molly Minshull Harry West Sophie Tudor
More House Captains	Rory Draper Milly Hemmings		

Trinity News



01

01 Spring recital was inspiring and uplifting

In April, Princethorpe College hosted its Spring Concert, masterminded by our fantastic Director of Music, Gil Cowlshaw, it was another virtual recital for the school community to enjoy.

The concert included solo performances from a number of extremely talented Princethorpe musicians from Year 8 upwards, alongside the Princethorpe Orchestra, the cast of Jesus Christ Superstar, and a rousing finale from the, 90-strong, Foundation Virtual Music Group. Together they performed *You Will Be Found* from the musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. Its message of hope was both inspiring and uplifting for us all and served as a reminder to anyone who feels lost or uncertain that, as the song says - you are not alone.



02

02 Amelia wins the Anatomical Art Competition

The College's Anatomical Art competition was won by Year 8 pupil, Amelia Chard. Her stunning specimen drawing of a wolf, amazed Head of Biology, Faye Roberts and Head of Art, Paul Hubball and as you can see from the image, was very deserving of its win.

The co-curricular competition encouraged pupils to bring together their artistic skills and knowledge of Biology in an anatomical drawing on a subject of their choice. Entrants could choose any subject and submit their work in any style.

Amelia's drawing was impressive, demonstrating both her artistic skill and biological knowledge.

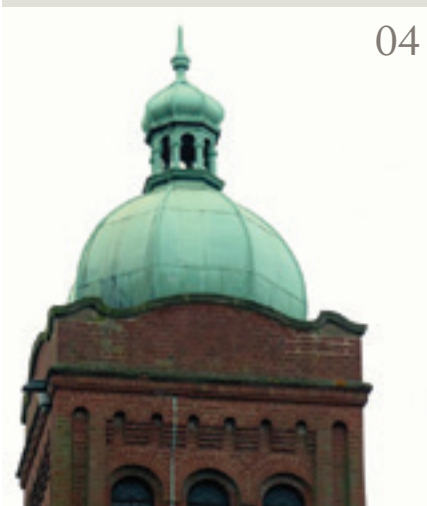


03

03 First Aid training provides valuable life skills

In April, Lower Sixth students completed an Emergency First Aid At Work course and passed with flying colours. The whole day course covered everything from the Recovery position to CPR, from helping someone with a head injury to responding to someone who is choking - essential first aid skills that could make a critical difference.

Knowing what to do when faced with an emergency is a hugely valuable life skill, and completing first aid training gives students the confidence to put their skills into practice if ever needed in the future.



04

04 Year 10 virtual visit to Synagogue

In May, Year 10 pupils took part in a virtual tour of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation Synagogue.

Head of Religious Studies Cyp Vella explains, "Judaism is one of the set religions that pupils study at GCSE and the virtual visit was a good opportunity to further their understanding of the faith."

The Hebrew Congregation's ambassadors were delighted to show pupils their beautiful Synagogue, taking the time to explain its different functions. They introduced pupils to some of their important artefacts including the Torah Scrolls and a Shofar, an ancient instrument made from a ram's horn. The ambassadors also spoke about what it means to be Jewish, such as the rules they live by, including eating only kosher food, and the challenges that brings.

Trinity News



05

Pupils enjoy National Reading Quiz

Well-read pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 represented Princethorpe College in the West Midlands heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz.

Hosted online on Teams, the quiz master was educational writer and performer Mr Dilly. Over 400 schools from across the country had entered the competition and in the regional round Princethorpe's teams faced 30 from the West Midlands.

Including rounds titled, Odd One Out, Opening and Closing Lines, Villains, Books on Screen, Myths and Legends, Comic and Graphic Novels, Partnership, Blast from the Past, Word Play and Watch Me Now, the competition was challenging but fun.

Competing from Year 8 were Sean Birtley, Andrew Gordon, Anna Johnson, Pippa Evans, Dylan Williams and Jess Lane while in the Year 7 team were Ariana Gray, Soren Wasley, Alexa Holland, Sophie Henry, Bella Ward and Megan Thandi. Both Princethorpe teams performed brilliantly with Year 8 coming sixth and Year 7 eighth overall, an absolutely fantastic result.

06

Earth Day

Marking Earth Day, pupils at Princethorpe enjoyed two visiting speakers on the topics of recycling and sustainability. Organised by the Planet Princethorpe team the talks took place at Tutor Time. We were delighted to welcome Victoria Head from Tony Team and Hannah Irvine of Holroyd Howe to inspire and engage our pupils. Both presentations were informative and shared how we can all do our bit to reduce, reuse and recycle.



07

Princethorpe pupils rise to the Junior Mathematics Challenge

Pupils from Princethorpe took part in the 2021 UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Challenge answering a series of multiple-choice questions. Aimed at pupils in Year 7 and Year 8, Princethorpe selected 73 able mathematicians to participate.

Year 8, Zach Hawkins was awarded a Gold certificate, and took the award for best performing pupil in school, and Year 7 pupil, Emily Hutton, was awarded a Silver certificate, and took the award for best performing pupil in Year 7.

Gold certificates were also awarded to Year 8 pupils Noah Granfield, Amelia Chard and Dylan Williams.

Silver certificates went to: Matthew Crawford, Cassia O'Hanlon, Soren Wasley, Thomas Leret, Roxy Glenn, Olivia Wilde and Oliver Passantino while Bronze certificates were awarded to: Anna Johnson, Ferdie Worrall, Pippa Evans, Theo Sparkes, Oliver Baker, Jonjo Boyle, Daniel Taylor, Ariana Gray, Ben Jones, Charlie Atkins, Eden Chaplow, Aaron Cooper, Sophie Dovey, Daniel Ovens Gibbs and Ethan Peachey.



08

08

Carnegie shadowing and 'Drop Everything and Read'

Each year the College participates in CILIP's (The Library and Information Association) shadowing scheme for the Carnegie Medal. This year 16 pupils from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth took part.

On Wednesday 16 June the winner of the Carnegie Medal 2021 was announced and Princethorpe College's shadowing group celebrated in style with a small party outside and of course plenty of talk about the books! After all that reading, the Princethorpe's Shadowers' choice of winner was *Run, Rebel*, a debut novel by Manjeet Mann. *Run, Rebel* was also awarded the national Shadowers' Choice Award. Princethorpe's pupils had great fun, and will be doing it all again next year.

Trinity News



09



10



11



12

09

Princethorpe hosts its own 'Any Questions'

Princethorpe College hosted its own 'Any Questions' in June and was delighted to welcome an MP and local councillors to the school. Conservative MP for Stoke North, and Old Princethorpeian, Jonathan Gullis was joined by Jonathan Chilvers, Green Party Councillor for Leamington Brunswick, and Tim Naylor, former Councillor and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party in Rugby to take part in a panel style question session with the Lower Sixth.

Chaired by Politics and History Teacher, Abi Adams, our visitors answered questions on a range of topics including Climate Change, Child Poverty and Education and it was a great opportunity for the students to listen to and contrast the different points of view.

10

Pupils excited by partial solar eclipse

Despite intermittent cloud, excited pupils and staff gathered at break on Thursday 10 June, to watch the partial eclipse of the sun. Physics teacher, Sophie Rose was on hand with filters to ensure everyone could view the eclipse safely. The eclipse began just after 10.00am and by 11.00am had reached its maximum, with nearly 25% of the sun covered, and the small crescent shape was clearly visible to see.

Mrs Rose explained, "It is so wonderful when nature gives us these rare opportunities to witness first hand the interplay of the Sun, planets and Moons in the Solar system. Viewing an eclipse is always such an exciting thing, it was great to see our pupils having this experience for the first time here at school."

It was an amazing solar spectacle that will be sure to have ignited pupils' interest in Science.

11

Five Year 10 pupils awarded Silver Certificates in Junior Physics Challenge

In May, 60 Princethorpe College Year 10 pupils took part in the Junior Physics Challenge, a competition organised by the British Physics Olympiad.

This year the competition was run online and attracted entries from 122 schools. It comprised of two papers each containing 30 multiple choice questions on topics that included Dynamics, Electricity, Optics, Heat, Units, Astronomy and Waves and was designed to engage and challenge pupils by offering a range of problems to solve. It was a great opportunity for our Physicists to apply their curriculum knowledge of physics practically.

Five Princethorpe pupils were awarded Silver certificates including Zak Abba, Harry Fitzpatrick, Amy Hogg, Tom Lomas and Joseph Newborough. A further 44 pupils received Bronze certificates.

12

Two day TEFL Course teaches valuable skills

20 Sixth Formers and two Year 11 pupils completed a two-day course in Teaching English As A Foreign Language (TEFL). The course covered topics such as teaching English language skills, identifying learning styles and creating learning materials through a series of engaging and fun learning activities.

Princethorpe's Sixth Form has offered the TEFL qualification for a number of years. Despite giving up two full days of their weekend, all the participants really enjoyed the course.

Trinity News

13 Amelia and Olivia Celebrate LAMDA Grade 8 Gold Medal Acting Awards

Upper Sixth Formers Amelia Burgess and Olivia Rawle were both awarded the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) Grade 8 Gold Medal in Acting. Gold is the highest medal awarded by LAMDA and takes years of training to achieve.

Amelia performed scenes from *Medea* by Euripides, *Once in a Lifetime* by Kaufman and *Hart and Things I Know to be True* by Andrew Bovell." She was awarded a Distinction and clearly impressed her examiner who commented, 'You obviously enjoy bringing characters to life'.

Olivia performed scenes from *Amateur Girl* by Whittington, *Our Country's Good* by Wertenbaker and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare. She was awarded a Merit and her examiner commented, 'You are a sensitive actor' with 'a confident stage presence'.



14 Year 7 Forensic Scientists solve the Crime Scene Challenge

What a finale we had to the Forensic Science Club. Over the course of the Trinity Term, our Year 7 Princethorpe Police Department trainees had been busy learning all about different Forensic Science techniques, from fingerprinting and blood splatter analysis to footprint evidence and soil samples, as well as how to process a crime scene and hand writing analysis.

In their final Crime Scene Challenge, Year 7 were called upon to investigate, review witness statements, examine the crime scenes and collect and analyse evidence. There was plenty to find, as the careless intruders had left many, many clues – there was even a body in the cellars! It was a deadly mystery but Year 7 were more than up for the challenge.



15 Congratulations to Princethorpe's Creative Writing prize winners

Congratulations to the winners of Princethorpe's 2020-21 Creative Writing Competition.

Earning a Bronze Award were Bella Ward (Year 7) for her dystopian theme-park thriller *A Glitch in a Fantasy* and Andrew Gordon (Year 8) for his story about a war veteran adrift in time, *The Lost Hero*. The Silver Award winners were Anna Johnson (Year 8) for her Medusa-inspired story *Hunted* and Dylan Williams (Year 8) for his Sci-Fi adventure, *The Pocked Man*. Taking the Gold Awards were Alexa Holland (Year 7) with her reflective composition *Who am I?*, and Amélie Friess (Year 11) for her supernatural horror *You're Still Typing*.

Well done to all the entrants on their creativity and hard work; there was certainly a lot of talent and commitment on display.



Fashion Academy

Fashion Academy wows with a stunning Virtual Show

As a fabulous finale to the end of the school year, Princethorpe College hosted its very first Fashion Show and it was a fantastic affair. Featuring four collections, Trash Fashion, Tie-Dye, Upcycle and Gold, Teacher of Design and Technology (Textiles), Miranda Porter and her team of fashionistas really wowed their virtual audience.



Fashion Academy was a new co-curricular club for the College this school year, with pupils meeting on Thursday evening to explore techniques, develop designs and make garments. Pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 enjoyed the opportunity to create and transform clothing into exciting, new, on trend styles. Many of the club attendees also took part in a full day workshop on Activities Day, designing and making a stunning garment in 'Gold' in just one day.

The Fashion Show was rehearsed and recorded on Tuesday morning and then streamed to the whole school as part of the final assembly of the school year. The new young designers debuted their pieces in style in a slick and stunning spectacle. Mrs Porter, commented, "I am so proud of everyone, they all worked so hard to bring the show together and it was simply amazing."



Summer Show

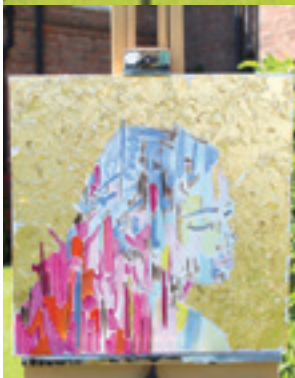


Another exceptional Summer Art, Photography and Design Show

Once again the Sixth Form Centre and Lecture Theatre were transformed into an eclectic exhibition space, as the College took part in Warwickshire Open Studios 2021. The College welcomed visitors to the school in timed viewing slots to enjoy the superb pieces on show.

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. With multipurpose furniture a theme running through many of the Resistant Materials students' final products.

Our congratulations go to all the GCSE and A-level pupils for producing such a worthy display in such challenging circumstances. Thanks go to the Art and Photography Department and the Design and Technology Department for all their support and inspiration to pupils this and every year and for putting together such an outstanding show.



Trinity Sport

Six Princethorpe Pupils Selected For England Hockey's Junior Regional Performance Centre

Six talented Princethorpe College hockey players were selected for England Hockey's Midlands Junior Regional Performance Centre. Year 10 pupils, Tom Hollis and Alice Whittaker and Year 11s, Molly Harper, Ben Hardy, Evie Phillips and Lara Tripp-Smith, had been playing hockey at school, club and county level for a number of years.

Joining the Junior Regional Performance Centre programme provides them with regular high-quality intensive training from professional coaches and the chance to play competitive hockey against some of the best young hockey players in the country.

It was fantastic news for them and their clubs and the College was delighted for them.

Princethorpe's Junior Boys Crowned Midlands Combined Athletics Champions

Princethorpe College's Junior Boys Athletics team celebrated after being crowned champions at the Midlands Schools Combined Events Regional Championships, at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton at the end of June. Their win qualified the boys for the ESAA (English Schools' Athletics Association) National Combined Events Championships in the autumn.

Ben Smith, André Onyekwe, Anjola Okusanya and Vincent McNevin all put in outstanding individual performances in the five athletics Combined Events: 80m Hurdles, Long Jump, Shot Putt, High Jump and 800m. Individually, Ben finished in 2nd place overall after an excellent run in the Hurdles setting a new school record of 14.1 seconds. André was 4th overall setting a new school record in the High Jump at 1.71 metres. Vincent broke the school's 800m record running 2.15.6 minutes to finish in 5th place overall, while Anjola won the Shot Putt to finish in 8th place overall. Together the boys' formidable individual results ensured the Princethorpe Junior Boys claimed the team win.

Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, said, "The boys were incredible. They had been training hard with limited opportunities to compete. They faced teams from across the Midlands and really rose to the challenge."



“The atmosphere was incredible, and pupils were very supportive of each other, appreciating every individual effort and there was very little in it at the end.

”



Trinity Sport

Two fantastic afternoons of friendly but fiercely competitive sport

Sports Day this year took place in year groups in the week before half term, and there was much excitement during Games lessons as pupils organised their teams. Sadly, torrential rain put pay to the Year 10 and Year 9 events but the sun finally came out and the Year 8 and Year 7 events duly went ahead.

Field and track events took place simultaneously so the playing fields were action-packed from the moment the starting gun fired. College staff were kept busy measuring, timing and recording all the running, jumping and throwing taking place. After a week of internal examinations pupils were more than ready for the chance to let off a bit of athletic steam.

On the Field pupils took part in the Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin, Discus and Shot Put while for the Track they had the challenge of the 1500m (Year 8), 800m, 300m (Year 8), the 200m, 100m and of course the very competitive Relay.

There was plenty of great competition, with excellent effort from everyone involved. 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.

Lee Cassell, Foundation Director of Sport, said, "We had two fantastic afternoons of friendly, but fiercely competitive sport. The atmosphere was incredible, and pupils were very supportive of each other, appreciating every individual effort and there was very little in it at the end."



Charity



Blue Day goes Cinematic

The last day before Lent Half Term is traditionally Blue Day at Princethorpe College with our Sixth Formers wearing blue for charity. Despite the lockdown the fundraising still went ahead, in aid of The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust.

To entertain their peers the prefects put together a motivational movie clip that was shared in Tutor Time. They donned an eclectic mix of blue costumes and sang and danced along.

Charity prefect, Hannah Bryer, co-ordinated the production of the clip pulling everyone's cameo performances together. Hannah explained, "Unfortunately we couldn't celebrate Blue Day in person this year, but I didn't want the event to be forgotten. The prefects liked the idea of a Blue Day Video, so we all voted for the songs we liked best and they sent me footage of them dancing which I then edited together. It was a fun event to do as we came towards the end of our year as prefects."



Sixth Form walk 24 miles for Mary's Meals

At the end of the school year, 27 students and 15 staff from Princethorpe College trudged a total of just over 885 miles to raise money for Mary's Meals.

Starting in Meriden they followed the Coventry Way route to Ryton before finishing with an eight-mile loop to finish back at Princethorpe College. Thankfully the weather remained clement on the day so the conditions were kind to the walkers.

Elizabeth Boyes, Anthony Convey, Zara-Skye Drinkwater, Ben Scares, Ciaran Smith and Pablo Scopes along with Charity Prefects, Joe England and Hannah McBride, were first across the line in a time of 8 hours and 20 minutes and they were followed home by a procession of jubilant finishers. Organiser of the event and Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Mr Rod Isaacs, 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 for impoverished children around the world."

Thank you so much to all who walked this year and to everyone who donated.

Chaplaincy

01 Our Theme for 2020-2021 is



01 Caring was Chaplaincy Theme for the year

At the beginning of the academic year, as part of the new term Eucharist, led by Father Alan Whelan MSC, the theme for the year 'Caring' was introduced. In the virtual service Father Alan spoke of the importance of 'Caring' in these most difficult of times and how by thinking of other and acts of kindness we can all individually care for each other.

02 Poppies symbolise College's reflections on Remembrance

During November, the College reflected on the theme of Remembrance. The month is the last in the Church's calendar and commemorates all those who have departed from life.

In Tutor groups pupils considered the theme of Remembrance, the legacies of war and why we commemorate today those who fought and the sacrifices they made.

Form Tutors shared poppies with their Tutor groups and encouraged pupils to record their remembrances. They wrote down the name(s) of a special person they wanted to remember, or say thank you to, personalising the poppies with their dedications and messages. The poppies were assembled into a prominent and impressive display in the glazed link to the Sixth Form Centre.



02

03 Feast Day reflects on the Ethos of College Founders

In December, the College celebrated Feast Day, marking the day back in 1854 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (the founders of the College) were established. During period 3 the school community came together virtually to commemorate the anniversary with a special Service of Thanksgiving.

Father Alan Whelan MSC led the school community in reflecting on the work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, to empower, educate and inspire. He explained how 'Caring', the Chaplaincy theme for this school year, was central to their ethos and that Jules Chevalier, the founder of the MSCs, believed that without a sense of caring there can be no community.



03

04 Confirmation 2021

We were profoundly grateful to Father Teddy O'Brien MSC, our Parish Priest, and to Father Alan Whelan MSC who made it possible for our Confirmands to be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Trinity Term.

Father Teddy celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in the College Chapel, along with Father Alan, on three separate occasions, in order to maintain social distancing regulations. In total 18 pupils were Confirmed.

The Confirmands are to be congratulated on their diligence in preparing for Confirmation, attending sessions both in person and on line and for witnessing to their faith.



04

Thanksgivings

Year 11 and Upper Sixth enjoy Thanksgiving Celebrations

To mark the end of their journeys through school, Year 11 and the Upper Sixth took part in Thanksgiving Services as they celebrated their last day in school. Parents joined the services virtually and both events were joyous occasions full of celebration and optimism. For us all it was a wonderful opportunity to remember and reminisce over pupils' time at the College, the friends they have made and the many adventures they have had along the way.

Both Year 11 and the Upper Sixth then enjoyed BBQ picnics and plenty of fun and games with their friends before finally heading home. We wished both year groups the very best as they move on to the next exciting chapter in their lives.



Achievers Celebrations

Achievers Celebrations

Every term Assistant Head Co-curricular, Neil McCollin, recognises the many pupils who have risen to the challenge of the College's ethos.

Nominated by members of staff across the College in recognition for their achievements, the pupils had all tried their best; some had excelled or showed commitment to sport, performing arts or academic studies, whilst others had gone over and above for their House or Tutor group. All were an outstanding example for their peers and worthy of recognition for the commitment and effort they put in, and all that they do to enrich school life.

	Michaelmas Achievers	Lent Achievers	Trinity Term Achievers
Year 7	Orla Fleming, Alexa Holland, Eva Holt, Grace McCollin and Mia Petrucci	Charlie Atkins, Jonjo Boyle, Glenys Chapman, Kathryn Flegg, Ariana Gray, Alexa Holland, Conor Horan, Daisy McMurdo, Theo Memetovic, Kyla-Mae Milestone, Rosie Moreton, Daniel Ovens Gibbs, Jorja Parris, Mia Petrucci, Annabelle Ritson, Skye Rotheram, Jess Sarkies, Ellie Stern, Lucas Summers, Megan Thandi, Bella Ward, Ethan Wright and James Wright	Charlie Atkins, Daniel Ovens Gibbs and James Wright
Year 8	Eden Chaplow, Tiernan Chapman-Apps, Hattie Gray, Martha Harris, Anna Johnson, Jessica Lane, Ignacy Librowski, Imogen Long, Olivia Monk, André Onyekwe and Jackson Roderick	Luke Abrahamson, Andre Barnett, Sean Birtley, Bobby Chapman, Emily Glover, Anna Johnson, Jessica Lane, Lorna McLoughlin, Jack Mills, Ben Moore, Sophie Nicolle, André Onyekwe, Chloe Potts and Charlie Wilcox	Sean Birtley, Hattie Gray, Ruby Mander, Lorna McLoughlin, Ben Moore, Sophie Nicolle, André Onyekwe, Emmi Parmenter and Dylan Williams
Year 9	Beatrix Boakes, Jayden Carr and Oscar Tebbatt	Jayden Carr, Matthew Carr, Jack Dando, Kobby Enyimayew, Chloe Henderson, Sebastian Hume-Chignell, Lottie Hunter, Giorgio Kleinmann, Harriet Louch, Hamish O'Brien, Zack Oldfield, Kate Pomerleau, James Reynolds, Robyn Shaw, Megan Shipton, Thomas Smith, Jemima Teeton and Sage Westbury	Sammie Borland, Andrew Hope, David Ikuomola, Albert Jackson-Bettles, Ben Rose, Harriet Sharpe, Priya Somel and Oscar Tebbatt
Year 10	Lauren Bach, Darcey Heritage, Noah Kemp, Joseph Newborough, Katie Richards, James Robinson, Daisy Southgate and Erin West	Joe Bird, Mary-Ellen Boyle, Emilia Case, Aryan Chima, Lara Convey, Guy Dawkins, Ella Dunkley, Jess Evans, Amelie Hancock, Darcey Heritage, Amy Hogg, Oliver Llewellyn, Julia Loftus, Oscar Low, Ben Putt, Darcy Reeve, Natasha Thomas, Kyran Vaughan, Toby West, Alice Whittaker, Izzy Wright and Erika Zanyi	Tahlia Collis-Smith, Alexander Hammond, Tom Hollis, Tilly Houghton, Claudia Newman, Darcy Reeve, James Robinson, Zoe Shayler, Zara Simpson, Daisy Southgate, Alice Whittaker and Izzy Wright
Year 11	Alex Allison, Issy Bunting, Florine Fuchss, Tom Knight, Toby Nicoll and Lara Tripp-Smith	Zoha Abbas, Roualeyn Alford, Laurel Arkesden, Elizabeth Boyes, Tom Dodsley, Eve Farquharson, Molly Harper, Mia Johnson, Tom Knight, Ben Murray, Oscar Page, Pratheesh Prabakaran, Rosie Pritchard-Jeffs, Jasmin Rose, Freddie Sutton, Dan Webb and Maddie Wilde	Edward Sharpe
Lower Sixth	Tillie Benford, Harpreet Birdi, Amelia Burgess, Anthony Convey, Sebastian Dibb, Paddy Grace, Elsie Kelley, Amelia Line, Cam McGregor and Ciaran Smith	Amelia Burgess, Greg Burford, Freya Caine, Joe England, Robyn Field, Poppy Hainge, Dan Hatfield, Milly Hemmings, Eve Howard, James Jennings, Elsie Kelley, Ishbel Kempton, Tobias Lambe, Caitlin Mason, Ella Mason, John Rabeti, Jack Rochford, Ben Scares, Emily Scrivens, Archie Shields, Ciaran Smith, Olivia Ward and Charlie Wollaston	Kate Keane, Caitlin Mason, Cam McGregor, Ben Scares, Max Smith and Luke Williams
Upper Sixth	Lauren Abba, Mia Darling, Henri Fuchss, Aimee Llewellyn, Arran Knight, Lauren Mason, Evie Nicholas, Alex Rejali, Lizzie Ridd and George Saunders	Lauren Abba, Ben Abrahamson, Hannah Bryer, Sophie Cheshire, Zara Cooke, Tom Crowfoot, Will Crowfoot, Amelia Cunningham, James Gallagher, Arran Knight, Ross Low, Josh Mander, Lauren Mason, Calan McIntosh, Angus Potter, Prajeet Prabakaran, Alex Rejali, Lizzie Ridd, Trinnie Seaman, Seb Shaw, Esme Tolley, Claudia Tyler, Isabella Wardman and Daisy Walker	Katie Heywood, Mia Hornett and Abbie O'Carroll-Bailey

Duke of Edinburgh



Record numbers of pupils embrace the challenge of The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

Despite all the challenges Covid-19 presented, pupils at Princethorpe College continued to participate in and successfully progress their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Utilising the DofE temporary programme changes and expedition flexibilities, the College adapted its DofE co-curricular programme to support pupils to complete their awards.

By the end of the year 363 pupils had completed Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, some 40% of the school pupil population. There had been a total of 18 separate expeditions, waking local routes from Princethorpe down to Long Itchington and back, around Upper Boddington and Cropedy on the borders of Northamptonshire, from Chipping Norton, through Bourton on the Water to Stow on the Wold in the Cotswolds, then completing a large circuit of Derwent Water in the Lake District and walking the mountains of Snowdonia.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards are recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award. They provide young people with the opportunity to get involved, explore new interests, discover talents and make new friends.

Will Bower, Head of Outdoor Education, commented, "Record numbers of Princethorpe pupils continue to embrace the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They take the opportunity to develop skills and try new experiences, pushing themselves both mentally and physically to be the best they can be. This year our pupils had to show extra initiative, adaptability and great organisation to keep on working towards their awards. We are delighted with their commitment and enthusiasm, and very proud that so many have progressed so far."

Well done to all of the pupils who have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this past year.





New Duke of Edinburgh's Young Ambassadors appointed

Lower Sixth Formers, Joe England, Ishbel Kempton, Jack Rochford, Ben Scares, Emily Scrivens and Ciaran Smith were appointed as Duke of Edinburgh Young Ambassadors. All the students were actively working towards their Gold Award and were nominated by Head of Outdoor Education, Will Bower, to take on the ambassadorial role.

The school had its very first Duke of Edinburgh's Young Ambassadors last year and was pleased to have six more students taking on this important role, working alongside Princethorpe's Duke of Edinburgh's team promoting, guiding and mentoring pupils participating in the Awards Scheme.





House News



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01 Year 7 Orla won this year's amazing House Talent Show

Much anticipated and always hotly-contested, the House Talent Show did not disappoint providing a sensational evening's entertainment for its audience in lockdown at home. The virtual show was watched by its largest audience ever as 541 members of the College community tuned in. Hosted by Jess Newborough, House Activities Leader, it included nine acts of talented, inspirational and brave pupils ranging from Year 7 to Upper Sixth.

For the first time the audience decided the winner with 292 votes cast when the voting closed. In first place, for More, was Year 7 Orla Fleming for her sensational performance of Abba's much-loved hit *Mamma Mia*. Second, for Austin, Year 7 Grace McCollin for her technically stunning gymnastics beam routine and in third place was Benet's answer to the Back Street Boys, Jackson Roderick, André Onyekwe and Ignacy Librowski, who performed Ed Sheeran and Justin Bieber's hit *I Don't Care*. A huge well done to all and thanks to everyone who took part or helped to put together this year's spectacular House Talent Show.

02 World Book Day fun across the school

World Book Day prompted lots of lovely opportunities to engage with books across the school. Ms Newborough organised perhaps her best House Challenge ever in *The Masked Reader*. Based on the popular TV singing show, it had everybody in the Princethorpe community guessing. Just who were Viking, Queen Bee and Butterfly, which mystery teachers were reading a passage from their favourite books?

It was such a challenge and within the House Teams there was plenty of speculation but Ms Newborough kept her mystery readers well and truly under wraps. Of course, the big question was just how well have pupils really been listening in lessons – and did they recognise the voices. It was a fantastic competition that pupils really enjoyed.

House News

03 **Awesome Austin celebrates victory in the hotly contested House Cup**

Austin House celebrated after winning the hotly contested House Cup. Their victory was announced by Ms Newborough in May and the cup was presented to the outgoing Austin House Captains, Luke Brotherton and Charlotte Fitzpatrick, as jubilant Austin pupils watched and cheered from their classrooms across the school.

Before announcing the result, Ms Newborough spoke of the challenges of the year, her delight at how Princethorpe pupils had responded and the camaraderie and sense of community that the House activities had provided across the year but especially during all the lockdowns.

Huge thanks to all the House team, including the House Activities Co-ordinators and House Captains for all they do to organise and run House events.



03

04 **House Activities Day 2021**

Princethorpe pupils stepped into the mystical east as they explored Japanese traditions and culture in a series of themed activities for this year's House Activities Day. Held on Friday 2 July, the biggest event of the House year is always a real favourite with pupils who go all out to win the house points up for grabs.

After an introductory Japanese tea ceremony hosted by House Activities Leader Sensei, Jess Newborough, pupils set off in their form groups to work on a series of activities and challenges all around the school. From Nana's Food Experience to the Rickshaw Challenge, being put through their paces by the Karate Kid or taking on Takeshi's Castle, folding origami in the Buddhist Retreat or racing Mario Kart style, it was a non-stop day full of fantastic fun.

After all the challenges had been completed, the school came together for a finale on the Close. Ms Newborough, thanked everyone for their participation commenting, "We have had a fabulous day, it has been great to see everyone getting involved. The atmosphere has been amazing."

A huge well done to everyone for taking part and a massive thank you to those who made the day possible especially House Activities Leader, Jess Newborough, the House Activities Co-ordinators; Hannah Carminati, Katharine Darwood-Bredin, Kieran McCullough and Jack Forsythe and to our stalwart Sixth Form House Captains who all worked so hard to make House Activities Day so much fun.

House Activities Day 2021 concluded with one final popular Japanese pastime, Karaoke as the Houses sang along first to Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* and then much to pupil's delight the football anthem *Three Lions (Football's Coming Home)*! What a fantastic day we all had!



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Old Princethorpians



Its 'Back to School' in style for OP Nigel Bromley

Old Princethorpians and former parent, Nigel Bromley returned to Princethorpe in September to reaffirm his long-standing connections to the school. Nigel, who still lives locally, landed his dream job as Head of Brand Marketing at Lotus Cars in 2019, a role that combines his love of all things 'motor' with over two decades of experience in the automotive and creative industries. He attended Princethorpe College back in the eighties and credits the school's formative role in developing the skills and interests that led him to a career in the demanding world of advertising and design.

He enjoyed his time at Princethorpe so much that he chose to send his daughter, Grace, to the school and over the years has contributed to the Princethorpe community in many different ways.

Comments Nigel, "My time at Princethorpe was hugely influential, the ideas, the energy, the empathy that my teachers taught me, were the stepping stones to my career today. They are the backbone of the Princethorpe community and why I love coming back and am always delighted to be able to support the College."

Nigel's former teacher, Foundation Assistant Head, Alex Darkes, was delighted to welcome his former pupil and fellow 'motor' enthusiast back to school. He commented, "It was great to catch up and swap stories. It is always inspiring for us to hear of our pupils' successes, even though he still owes me some Physics homework from 1982!"

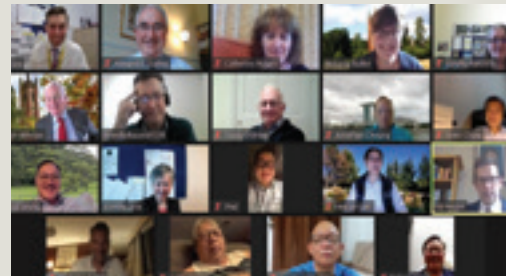


An International Gathering For Virtual VSOP Reunion

In September, we celebrated the biennial (virtual) reunion for the former pupils of St. Mary's Priory, who were at school here at Princethorpe prior to 1966, known to us as VSOPs (Very Special Old Princethorpians). It was our first ever virtual reunion – hosted on Zoom – and we were joined by 14 former pupils who were all at school here in the 1950s and 1960s.

It was a truly international gathering, with former pupils joining the call from as far afield as Miami, Pennsylvania and Dinklage in Germany. Hosted by Assistant Head, Alex Darkes, they enjoyed two hours of reminiscing, a virtual school tour, a look into Princethorpe's archives, a Princethorpe-themed quiz, and a special Mass led by Father Teddy O'Brien MSC from the Princethorpe Chapel.

Foundation Assistant Head, Aled Darkes, said, "Princethorpe friendships continue to be strengthened and renewed. Our Very Special Old Princethorpians (VSOPs) express enormous enthusiasm for their school days at the Priory. Their stories help us to fill in missing pieces of the jigsaw and the VSOPs are also keen to celebrate the College's ongoing success."



Princethorpe reconnected with old friends in Hong Kong and the Far East

In November the Old Princethorpians Association hosted a virtual reunion for former pupils from Hong Kong and the Far East. Joined by Princethorpe College Headmaster Ed Hester, former Headmaster Father Alan Whelan MSC, former Director of Boarders Father Teddy O'Brien MSC, former Director of Boarders and long-serving and much loved teacher Sean Philpott and lifelong Princethorpians and teacher Alex Darkes – the virtual reunion included Mass from the Princethorpe Chapel, a virtual tour of the school, a Quiz and a delve into the Princethorpe archives.

The evening began with a welcome from the Headmaster and from Alan Young, who heads up Old Princethorpians in Hong Kong. We were joined on the call by OPs from Hong Kong, mainland China, Singapore, Cambodia and Australia, as well as the staff team dialling in from a drizzly and overcast Princethorpe College.

The reunion was a wonderful chance to catch up with our friends from Hong Kong and the Far East again. The warmth of feeling towards their former teachers and the school, after all these years is testament to the experiences and friendships they made here. It was a pleasure for us to organise and the many messages of appreciation and thanks we've received from the attendees were a real delight.

Old Princethorpians



OP Jordan King gives Sixth Formers an insight into his life in Motorsport

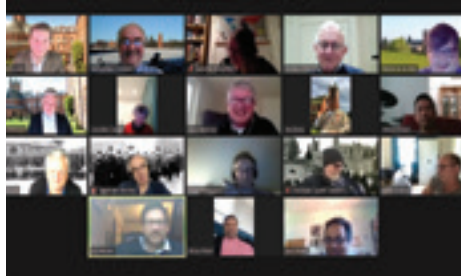
Professional racing driver, Jordan King, returned to Princethorpe in January.

Jordan attended Princethorpe's Sixth Form and left the College back in 2012 to pursue a career in motor racing, a sport that he said 'has put a smile on my face' from the day he first sat in a go-kart at Mr Karting, just south of Leamington Spa.

Jordan's talent and indefatigable drive have taken him from Karting through Formula 3, on to GP2, then IndyCar, World Endurance and the heights of the Indy 500 and Le Mans. An incredible career for a 26-year-old.

Interviewed by College top motor sport fan, Head of Mathematics, Sharon McBride, who could scarcely contain her excitement, Jordan spoke to Sixth Formers and staff about his life in the competitive world of motor racing. He answered questions with generosity and candour and his anecdotes helped students understand the preparation, practise, determination and resilience required to be so successful in his chosen sport.

Our thanks go to Jordan for such an informative session and for answering our students' questions, it was great to welcome him back to the school. He was a great role model for our students, inspiring and encouraging our young people to follow their dreams.

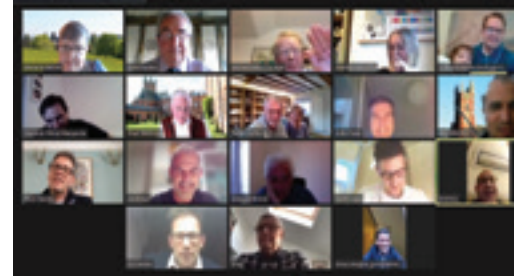


Stateside Virtual Reunion a very Convivial Affair

In February the Old Princethorpians and Development Office hosted their first ever OPs in the Americas Virtual Reunion bringing together former pupils now located in the United States and North America and it proved to be a very convivial affair. The Stateside OPs were joined by a contingent from the UK including Princethorpe College Headmaster, Ed Hester, former Headmaster, Father Alan Whelan MSC, former Director of Boarders, Father Teddy O'Brien MSC, lifelong Princethorpean and teacher Alex Darkes and the Chair of the Old Princethorpean Committee, Peter Rollason.

The virtual reunion included a Blessing, a virtual tour of the school and a fascinating chance to delve into the Princethorpe archives. It also included plenty of time for former pupils to swap stories, share photos, reminisce and to renew their connections with each other and their former school.

We were joined by OPs from across North America from as far afield as California, Minneapolis, Nevada, New York, Illinois, Washington, Ontario and Barbados as well as the school staff team. The Old Princethorpians excitedly shared their news and caught up – telling of their lasting friendships from their time at school. The former pupils had mainly attended the College during the seventies and eighties and with many having boarded there were plenty of memories of lively escapades to recount. It was wonderful to reconnect with all our friends across the pond we always enjoy getting back in touch.



Spanish OPs Virtual Reunion proves to be a real family affair

Following a flying visit by Old Princethorpean, José Contreras to the College in March, a Spanish OPs Virtual Reunion was suggested, with the aim of gathering together as many of the Spanish former pupils from the 80s and 90s as possible. Former languages teacher, Ed MacFetridge, who is in regular contact with his old Spanish charges via WhatsApp, leapt into action and in no time at all a date and was set.

Nine former pupils joined the Zoom call, along with host Alex Darkes, Headmaster, Ed Hester, OPs Secretary, Melanie Butler and Archivist, Janette Ratcliffe. Also on the call were members of staff, former Headmaster, Fr Alan Whelan MSC, former teachers, Paul Adams, Peter and Liz Griffin, Bernie Moroney and of course, Ed MacFetridge.

Most of the OPs are still based in Spain and all have successful careers. Tall tales were told of Spanish football prowess, extra English lessons, the confiscation of illicit Spanish food and weekly calls home from the telephone box in the main corridor. Several of the group spoke of their initial homesickness and the warmth the whole group continues to feel for former Matron, Ann Grant, who they described as 'our second mother'.

Amongst the good-humoured exchanges and banter, what quickly became clear was that in true Spanish style a Saturday evening, even one conducted over Zoom, soon becomes a family occasion. The highlight of the evening had to be when the three Contreras brothers, Juan, José and Javier, were joined on the call by their remarkable nonagenarian mother, a phonetics expert, who in her excellent English, explained how her boys came to become pupils at the College.

'Muchas gracias' to Ed MacFetridge for his invaluable help in organising the evening.

Princethorpe Connect



Telethon success sees Princethorpe reconnect with hundreds of OPs

During the Easter holidays Princethorpe College undertook its first-ever Telethon, aimed at getting back in touch with Old Princethorpians and former parents of the College to catch-up, update them on our news and ensure we can stay in touch in the future.

A team of 13 recent leavers from 2015 to 2020 totalled nearly 700 hours of conversation with nearly 600 alumni and former parents being spoken to during the two weeks of the campaign. The telethon was undertaken remotely with the call team doing their work either at home or university. Our callers were told many stories of years past from the 1960s onwards and also enjoyed catching up with more recent leavers and hearing how many of them are getting on at university or work.

Many thanks to our wonderful call team as well as those from the Princethorpe community who took the time to give us their thoughts and feedback. It was really great to get back in touch. Esme Down (OP 2019), who was on the call team, said:

"I've really enjoyed doing the telethon campaign. It was wonderful to chat to so many different people and to hear that the caring ethos of Princethorpe has been prominent throughout its history. The people I've spoken to have such fond memories of the school and still feel a great affinity with it. It's been a privilege to be able to give back to Princethorpe and show my appreciation for my time there."



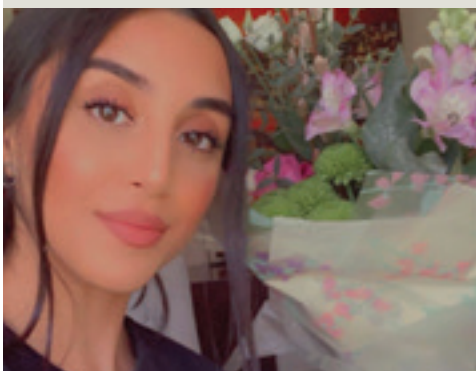
The Princethorpe Connect Community just kept on growing

Across 2020/21 membership of the Foundation's online alumni community, Princethorpe Connect, continued to grow.

In September the community reached another milestone when it hit the 600 members marker. The community's 600th member was no other than Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC and we were delighted to present him with a bottle of brandy which he was very pleased to receive!

In March, OP Zainah Darr was the 700th membership prize draw winner. Zainah left Princethorpe in 2018 and had been studying Neuroscience at Queen Mary University of London. She was delighted with her prize, a bouquet of flowers and told us "As fascinating as my degree has been, I have now decided to pursue a career in law and have been accepted to study the GDL Law Conversion Course at the University of Law. It was lovely to hear from Zainah and to hear of her future plans.

In June, the 800th prize draw winner was Upper Sixth leaver, Trinnie Seaman, who won a £25 Amazon Voucher and a bottle of champagne for her table at the Leavers' Ball.



New features included Clubs and Career Mentors

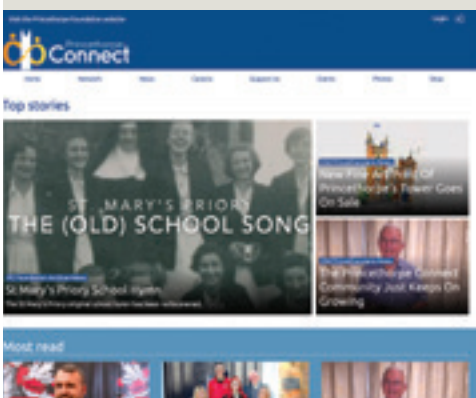
During the 2020/21 year the Foundation also rolled out new functionality for the Princethorpe Connect online community.

One new feature was community clubs for our Hong Kong, USA and North America and Spanish Old Princethorpians. Each club allows alumni members to network more easily with fellow members. Although the Clubs feature started with four geographic groups, clubs can be set up for any interest group.

A mentoring platform was also unveiled on Princethorpe Connect that allows Old Princethorpians to connect with other alumni and the wider Princethorpe Community to network and seek professional advice.

The mentoring platform currently features over 240 featured mentors who are happy to provide advice to others in the Princethorpe Community. Those looking for a mentor can search based on industry area or employer and send a mentoring request through the platform.

It's a system that allows alumni to easily ask for and offer support for each other.



Development

The Development Office continued with its work to make a difference



Pearson family support Princethorpe's Science Campaign

Brothers Ben and Alex Pearson, leavers of 2014 and 2016 respectively, and their family were the first donors to take up the opportunity to name a laboratory in Princethorpe's proposed new Science Centre. The Pearson family's major donation, given in memory of Ben and Alex's late father and in thanks for the support given to the boys during their time at the school, was the first gift that the College received to go towards naming one of the new Science labs – the Pearson Laboratory.

Commenting on the gift, Ed Hester said, "It's wonderful that the Pearson family have been able to support Princethorpe so generously, and it's exciting to see our first donors come forward to name one of the laboratories in the new Science Centre. Both Ben and Alex contributed hugely to College life during their school years here and this is a wonderful tribute to their legacy and that of their late father."

Jules Chevalier Legacy Society

Across the year the Development Team hosted virtual workshops on the subject of legacy giving to the Princethorpe Foundation. The workshops introduced the Bursary Scheme, and the range of legacies which are available and the easy steps which need to be taken to set this arrangement up formally.

Assistant Head Alex Darkes explained: "Many people have big demands on their finances during their lifetime which may make it difficult for them to give a gift. Making a donation as part of a will is a very personal way of giving which can have a hugely positive impact on the College for future generations. Additionally, it may also be very tax efficient for the donor and is very easy to set up."

Anyone making a legacy pledge is invited to join the Jules Chevalier Legacy Society – and the workshops also sought views on the society and on legacies and broadening their appeal.



Steve Kowal takes on Foundation Development Director role

Steve Kowal was appointed to the role of Foundation Development Director and joined the community in the summer of 2021. He brought with him a proven track record in fundraising and a wealth of development experience.

Commented Ed Hester, "We had an outstanding field of candidates and Steve stood out both in terms of experience and most importantly his fit with Princethorpe. His arrival at this key juncture will be instrumental to the success of both the Science+ Campaign and the wider development strategy for the Foundation."

Steve added, "I am fully committed to the values that education embraces and look forward to bringing my skills and experience to bear within the independent school sector at Princethorpe. The Foundation is relatively young in its development journey and I relish the opportunity to lead and manage its fundraising efforts and engagement with the whole community."



“It's wonderful that the Pearson family have been able to support Princethorpe so generously.”

Archive



Princethorpe offers a Virtual Heritage Open Day Tour

Princethorpe College was delighted to take part in Heritage Open Day, England's biggest heritage and culture festival. For 2020 Princethorpe's archive team decided to create and offer a virtual tour.

Visitors were able to explore the Chapel and take a behind the scenes look at what was once St Mary's Priory. The tour included the quintessential Quad that has featured in BBC period productions, the stunning stained glass in what is now the Library, the nuns' final resting place in the Roundhouse, the hidden secrets of Little Switzerland and so much more.

It was a rare opportunity to get under the skin of one of Warwickshire's iconic landmarks and it proved to be very popular with over 650 views.



Then and Now Natural Places

Within the school archives there is a huge collection of photos and Foundation Archivist, Janette Ratcliffe, never misses an opportunity to share the treasures within her care. Back in the summer Janette shared a series of Twitter posts on the theme of nature for Mental Health Awareness Week and we enjoyed comparing the then and now images of some of the College's most iconic natural settings.

Some of the old photos were from a St Mary's Priory's prospectus from the 1920s and they included a picture of pupils amongst the trees on the Lime Walk, originally planted in the 1840s, a photo of Switzerland, the lake that was formed when clay was dug out to build St Mary's Priory, and an old image of The Plantation, what we now know as the Mile Walk. There was also an old photo of the Quad from when it was part of St Mary's Priory's enclosure.

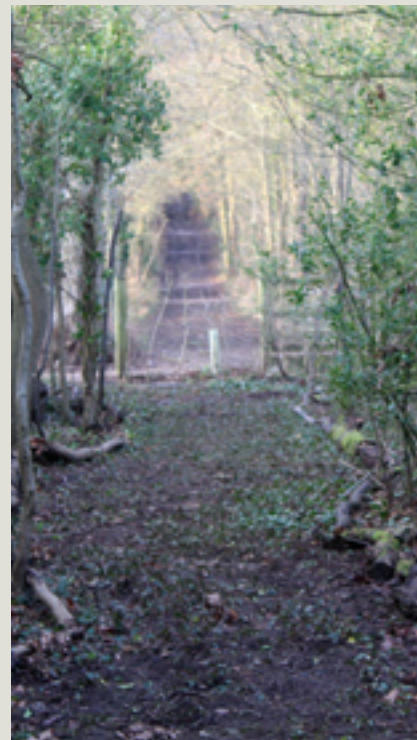
The then and now photos show just how little the campus grounds have changed over the years and were fascinating for all Old Princethorpians.

If you are interested you are welcome to explore the 11,000 items in archive collection further here: <https://archives.princethorpe.co.uk/>, or receive regular updates, including lots of old photos, by following Janette's Twitter feed @PFdn_Archives

The archive reference for the prospectus is SMP.26.6a.



Archive



College Clock restoration complete

The College Clocktower was shrouded in scaffolding for over a year undergoing some much-needed renovation. A landmark at Princethorpe that has played an important role in the daily lives of all who have lived and worked here. The current clock was purchased in 1861 and was last renovated in 1959 for the then Reverend Mother, Mary Augustine's Golden Jubilee.

The stonework of the tower was badly in need of restoration, as over the years water had rusted the metal framework and the rust had eventually blown the stone. Stonemasons, Midland Conservation, replaced every defective piece.

The clock is a cast iron chair frame design movement with hour strike and ting tang quarter chimes, it drove two external dials with an anchor escapement with pendulum action. Cumbria Clocks, church and public clock specialists, took on the restoration work and were amazed by the ingenuity that staff, including former Head of Chemistry, John Miller and Estates Assistant, Gerry Lovely, had shown in keeping the old clock going. All was carefully restored, with a new auto winding mechanism fitted.

The weather vane had also rusted and no longer moved. Its condition was so poor that we considered replacing it. However, the stonemasons were able to rebuild it and finish it with a new coat of paint.

It has been wonderful to see the clock and weathervane atop the tower and to hear the distinctive chimes sounding again. It is now once more a focal point for the whole community to enjoy.

Old Woodland Walk restored

The Grounds team restored and revitalised an old woodland path known as Nut Walk. Running along the back of the Orchard wall, the overgrown path originates from Princethorpe's days as a Priory and connects the sports field entrance to the Mile Walk to the car park by the Grounds shed.

Such was the dilapidated state of the path, that very few of Princethorpe's current pupils and staff would have ever thought that there was a path there but as our very own Mr Princethorpe, Foundation Assistant Head, Alex Darkes, reveals, "When I was here as a pupil (1968-75) the Nut Walk was less overgrown and made a diversion from the Mile Walk as another place to explore! The Nut Walk hugged the back of the Orchard wall from the Games field side and was bordered by a ditch. I recall seeing hazelnuts, with their distinctive husks, no doubt the reason for its name. My strongest memory is of the carcass of an old black car which was close to the Orchard wall and well hidden by the undergrowth. It must have pre-dated Princethorpe College and it was always a bit of a mystery as to how it got there, as the nuns were incredibly orderly in terms of looking after the place."

The Grounds teams cleared away the undergrowth, brambles and other invasive species with Grounds Assistant, Alan Husband, spending many long hours cutting the ivy ready for it all to be pulled off the orchard walls. The team re-established the path, discovering old roses and even the remains of the old car! It is fantastic to have the lost path returned to use.

Sister Boniface

Father Brown spin off series filmed at Princethorpe over the summer

There was much excitement at Princethorpe College over the summer holidays as filming commenced for a new series – a spin off from the Father Brown TV series, The Sister Boniface Mysteries.

BritBox first announced the commission of The Sister Boniface Mysteries in February 2020 as a brand-new period drama. The official synopsis for the series reads:

"The Sister Boniface Mysteries is set in 1960s rural Warwickshire and follows the investigations of Sister Boniface, Bride of Christ, vintner, and Crime Scene Investigator. Police forensics is rudimentary by today's standards. DNA is yet to be discovered. Blood testing can take days. The notion of trace evidence is in its infancy and the preservation of crime scenes is shockingly hit and miss. Fortunately the Great Slaughter Constabulary has a secret weapon in its fight against crime.

"Hidden deep in the countryside is St Vincent's Convent, (aka Princethorpe College) a small community of wine making nuns where ensconced in a laboratory is Sister Boniface. An IQ of 156 and a PHD in forensic science, plus an addiction to popular detective fiction and a fully equipped crime laboratory make Boniface an invaluable aid to Police investigations. Mud, blood, stains, hairs and fibres. If there is evidence to be found Boniface will find it. Poisons, trace evidence, blood stains, etymology. She's more up to speed on the latest forensic techniques than the Police."

For those of us a little older it was wonderful seeing the College taken back in time but it was quite surreal to occasionally round the corner and find yourself confronted by a nun.

Coincidentally, OP and actor Emilio Doorgasingh (Class of 1983) will also be appearing in the series, though sadly he did not film any scenes at his old school.

Once we hear more from the producers and know when the new series will air, we will be sure to share the details with the Princethorpe community.



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. We would like to thank them again for all that they do for the pupils in so many ways, not least in the way they have risen to the challenges of lockdowns, Home Learning and home working.

During the 2020/21 school year:

We welcomed:

Jenny Andrews, Laura Baskerville, Lee Cassell, Maddie Downey, Helen Essery, Rebecca Forde, Jack Forsythe, Sophie Jones, Dan Lee, William O'Hara, Emilie Onyekwe, Alex Phillips, Helen Plenderleith, Laura Rindler, Karen Bannister, Angela Ritson, Michelle Gawthorpe, Sam Curtis, Jo Flowers, James Munsey, Steve Kowal and Paul Reay.

And we said goodbye to:

Abi Adams, Heather Aston, Laura Baskerville, Nicola Borman, Nicola Browne, Lisa Challinor, Luke Colthart, David Cotton, Helen Dean, Maddie Downey, Jack Forsythe, Charlotte Hancock, Holly Hincks, Chris Lee, Gerry Lovely, Peter McLeish, Elena Pope, Olivia Pope, Jo Powell, Michael Reddish, John Seymour, Katie Shorten, Francesca Wright, Judy Vick and Ling Wu.

We said farewell to Deputy Head – Academic, Michael Reddish as he took on the role of Vice Principal at Harrow International School in Bangkok.

We also wished Lisa Challinor well in her new role as Director of Wellbeing at King's High, after 11 years at Princethorpe as Teacher of English, Head of Year and latterly Head of Benet House. Nicola Borman also left the English department to become Head of English at Stowe School.

We thanked Peter McLeish, for his work in both the Mathematics and Physics departments and Helen Dean for her work in the Music department.

Abi Adams left us after two very successful years in the school teaching History and Politics while Jo Powell moved on from the Psychology and Sociology department.

We also said goodbye to our Trainee Teachers, Sophie Rejali, Megan Lewis, Alice Reed and Ally Drury who all joined us as part of their teacher training courses.

We bid farewell to our outgoing TAs, Katie Shorten, Laura Baskerville, Maddie Downey and Will Cooper-Harris and our Graduate Sports Coach and TA, Jack Forsythe who have all done sterling work in so many areas of the school.

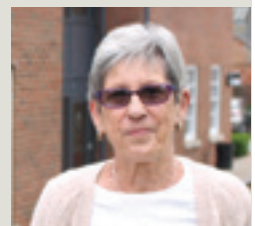
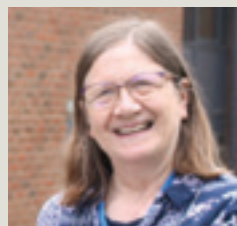
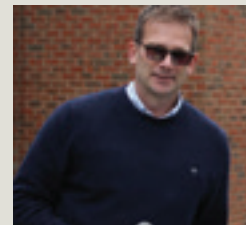
David Cotton, our Heath and Safety Manager also retired in the summer.

We thank all our leavers for all they have done at Princethorpe and wish them all well in their retirement or future careers.

As we finished two Staff INSET days at the end of the Trinity Term it was lovely to have a short outside event to celebrate our longstanding members of staff as well as those leaving the College this year for pastures new.

Long service awards were made to Special Projects Officer, Gill Price and Lab Technician, Angela Morris for 20 years of service; Peripatetic Music Co-ordinator Felicity Coulson for 30 years of service; Catering Assistant, Colin Jamie, Head of Geography, Mike Taylor and Chaplain Fr Alan Whelan MSC for 40 years of service; Latin Teacher, Rachel Taylor for 45 years of service and last but by no means least Estates Assistant Gerry Lovely and Cleaner Judy Vick for an amazing 45 and 46 years of service respectively.

Thank you and best wishes to them all.



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

Results Day



In spite of the unprecedented challenges, Princethorpe College celebrated another year of excellent exam results.

In the Sixth Form 55% of all A-level grades were A* or A and overall 95% of grades were A* to C. Impressively, 39 high-flyers achieved three or more A* or A grades. Special mention to Sophie Cheshire, James Gallagher, Charlotte Lister, Lauren Mason, Grace McGrory, Prajeet Prabakaran, Alex Rejali, Carmel Spelman and Daisy Walker who all achieved straight A*s.

At GCSE over two thirds of all entries were graded 9, 8 or 7 and 56 Year 11 pupils received nine or more 9, 8 or 7 grades. There were many exceptional personal achievements, with Joshua Apaya, Keira Eaton, Amélie Friess, William Hawkins, Freya Mills, Eleanor Page, Oscar Page, Pratheesh Prabakaran and Madoc Williams, all achieving eight or more grade 9s. Overall, over 99% of the grades achieved were levels 9 to 4.

Ed Hester, Headmaster, commented, "This year's A-level and GCSE results were arrived at in a very different way to normal. That said we were delighted that the results are a fair reflection of the hard work and achievements of these year groups. Pupils remained resilient throughout periods of lockdown, home learning and self-isolation. It has been an extremely demanding time and all credit goes to our pupils and staff for their commitment.

Good School Guide

In June 2021 Princethorpe received its first ever review by the prestigious Good Schools Guide. The Guide, which selects schools to be included on merit alone, is famous for its unbiased and candid reviews of state and private schools, and is trusted by families worldwide. Princethorpe is now one of just 1,300 schools currently reviewed by the Guide, out of over 30,000+ schools in the UK.



An editor from the Guide visited the College in May, interviewed Ed Hester, the Headmaster, toured the campus, observed lessons and spoke with pupils and parents.

The 2,500-word review, which appears on the Good Schools Guide's website and will be included in the next hard copy edition, includes a pen portrait of the Headmaster, plus insights into exam results, teaching and learning, co-curricular life, discipline and the College's ethos and heritage.

Commenting on the College's approach to pastoral care, the Guide says:

"There are two rules at the school: be kind and do your best. The whole school runs on this ethos and it appears to be all that is needed as pupils and staff adhere to it. The school is renowned for its pastoral care and kindness. Every parent we spoke to mentioned it and for virtually all of them it was the reason they chose the school. 'It really is like a family and we are included too.' These two old fashioned values shape the school. It's open minded and all are very welcome but the Catholic teaching permeates throughout. Every child is treated as an individual 'and they really are,' said parents. The overall feeling is that this is a kind school, we would concur."

The very comprehensive and positive review concludes with a Last Word, which sums up the Guide's findings:

We have the impression that Princethorpe College just gets on with things, modestly feeling no need to blow its own trumpet. But during the long-term tenure of this head it has gained in confidence, reputation and status and parents have sat up and taken notice. They know that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to educating their children and have found the school that agrees with them; a good outcome for all.

Ed Hester, Headmaster, commented, "It was a pleasure to welcome the Good Schools Guide to Princethorpe. We are delighted they recognised our 'spirit of family' and found us to be a 'kind school' and that every parent they spoke to was 'hugely impressed by the diligence and commitment of our staff'. They successfully managed to get under our skin and paint what we feel is an accurate picture of life at the school."

“ The overall feeling is that this is a kind school, we would concur. ”





Local artist and Tower Review designer Debbie McLaughlin has a long association with the College having worked closely with the Marketing Department on all its design work for the past 15 years.

During the lockdown we commissioned her to produce a new painting. The work titled - *The Soaring Redbrick Tower* - is in her favoured urban sketching style and depicts the famous Princethorpe tower and the main reception entrance to Princethorpe College.

Prints and greeting cards are available from
<https://connect.princethorpe.co.uk/shop>



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