

BETTERTIMES

Bohunt Education Trust Termly Events Review

ISSUE 19 – AUTUMN 2024 – ACHIEVE



BET SCHOOLS CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS

**PARALLEL
ELECTION
RESULTS**

**BET CUP
WINNERS**

Read more inside:

BOHUNT WORTHING STUDENTS EMBRACE NATURE | BOHUNT WOKINGHAM MASTERCHEF COMPETITION | PRIORY SCHOOL KENYA TRIP | GIRLS IN STEM AT BOHUNT SCHOOL | BOHUNT HORSHAM'S AUTHOR VISIT | WIZARD OF OZ PRODUCTION AT BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH | THE COSTELLO SCHOOL WINS COMMUNITY PRIZE | BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW AND MORE...

enjoy respect achieve

BET CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL GCSE RESULTS ACROSS ITS NINE SCHOOLS

BOHUNT EDUCATION TRUST PROUDLY ANNOUNCED OUTSTANDING GCSE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY STUDENTS ACROSS ITS FAMILY OF SCHOOLS, REFLECTING THE TRUST'S DEDICATION TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PERSONAL GROWTH.



Highlights include

- Bohunt Wokingham celebrated its best-ever GCSE results, with 83% of students achieving Grade 4 or above in English and Maths. Notably, over one-third of grades were awarded at Grade 7 to 9.
- Bohunt Farnborough also excelled, with its best results in a decade. The school reported a significant increase in top grades, showcasing the hard work and dedication of its students.
- Bohunt School Liphook celebrated impressive results, with 90% of students achieving Grade 4 or above in English and Maths. The school also saw a remarkable number of students achieving top grades across various subjects, reflecting the high standards of education and support provided.
- The Petersfield School, recently rated Outstanding by Ofsted, saw Millie G achieve an extraordinary eleven straight Grade 9 GCSEs, a remarkable accomplishment.
- Bohunt School Worthing achieved remarkable individual performances, with several students earning multiple Grade 9s. Megan P secured 8 Grade 9s and two Grade 8s, while Archie J attained 9 GCSEs at Grade 8 and above.
- Bohunt Horsham achieved significant success, with 77% of students attaining Grade 4 or above in English and Maths. The school also reported a strong performance in sciences, with many students achieving top grades.

- The Costello School celebrated its students' achievements, with 64% of students achieving Grade 4 or above in English and Maths. The school highlighted impressive results in subjects such as History and Art, where a high percentage of students received top grades.
- Steyning Grammar School reported excellent results across various subjects, with over 90% of students achieving Grades 4-9 in Photography and 86% in Full Course RE.
- Priory School celebrated numerous students achieving top grades, with standout performances in French (95% Grades 9-4), Statistics (100% Grades 9-4), and Dance (100% Grades 9-4).

Neil Strowger, Trust Leader at BET, said: "I am immensely proud of the efforts made by students across our schools. These GCSE results are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and resilience. Our commitment to ensuring the achievement of every student has led to these outcomes, reflecting the game-changing abilities of our students and staff and the excellence we strive for across BET."

BET's focus on delivering unparalleled educational opportunities and highly effective teaching has clearly paid dividends, nurturing students into becoming "game-changers" and setting them up for future success.

See pages 18-19 for more photos from our school results days.

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FUTURE ISSUES OF BETTER TIMES

We want to ensure you enjoy BETTER Times and find it a useful and engaging platform. If you have any suggestions for future content, please email the Comms team at: comms@bohuntrtrust.com

Many thanks to all this issue's contributors.





WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF BET

As we begin the new academic year – and the tenth anniversary year for BET! - we also enter a new era, with a total change of Government. Although it is still early days, there are positive indications that they intend to make significant changes in many areas of our lives.

I am delighted that one of the first important changes is the welcome and long-overdue announcement that one-word Ofsted judgements are no more, although there is no information as yet as to how inspection reports will be written to take this into account. A complete review is promised for implementation next September – is it too much to ask that their overall approach will result in much less stress for senior leaders and teachers? You will recall my previous comments that Ofsted has become an unwelcome distraction, and needs urgent reform – hopefully this will happen in the near future. We await developments!

However, as a pensioner, I must comment that the removal of the winter fuel allowance for many people of a similar age who are less fortunate than me will cause hardship. When compared with, for example, the large pay rises for train drivers, this will be difficult for many pensioners to accept. Are train drivers more valuable to the country than teachers, in whose hands rest the long-term future prosperity of the nation?

Exam results this year across the Trust were outstanding, with numerous individual achievements, several pupils gaining multiple Grade 9s, at least one with an astounding 11! At Liphook, GCSE results were the highest-ever since the school opened, and were the best in Hampshire. The A-level results also were tremendous, with over 40% of entries gaining A and A* grades, as a result of which over 90% of students secured places at their first-choice universities. Yet again, this confirms the Outstanding rating for Bohunt Sixth Form!

Following an excellent SIAMs inspection earlier in the year, it is pleasing to note the excellent GCSE results at Steyning, together



with the Sixth Form cohort gaining over 69% of entries at A* to C, of which 27% were at A*/A. Yet again, Farnborough results this year were the best for over 10 years, making it one of the most improved schools in Hampshire.

Congratulations are due to Horsham, where the schools' first cohort achieved a brilliant set of GCSE results this summer, with 25% of entries gaining Grades 7+. This term will be very exciting for all at the school, with the opening of our first Reception class – lots of little people around to add to the overall buzz! Mention must also be made of the best-ever results at Wokingham, with over 33% gaining Grades 7+.

Demonstrating the broad and topical education delivered by our schools, a cross-trust parallel election took place, with party manifestos, statements from individual candidates, and polling stations. This exercise helped students to gain a good understanding of our national election process, its relevance and the importance of politics to our daily lives. With the results being announced on the same day as the national election, interestingly, the majority of the strong student vote went to the Labour Party, reflecting the national picture.

There are numerous individuals in our schools who toil away tirelessly in the background. These unseen heroes keep the wheels turning, contribute hugely to the successes and achievements of our pupils, yet frequently go unacknowledged. It is very pleasing that one of that important group has been recognised with a national award. Many congratulations to Hesta Dalton, Priory Headteacher's PA for her Silver Award for being an Unsung Hero in this year's Pearson National Teaching Awards.

DR RAY MORTON

Chair of the Trust Board



MESSAGE FROM TRUST LEADER

Colleagues,

A warm welcome back to school and a special welcome to those colleagues who have just joined the Trust; you are in for a treat!

As educators, we stand on the threshold of new beginnings, each academic year offers a fresh canvas for growth, innovation, and impact. The start of a new school year is not merely a return to routine but a golden opportunity to embrace change, invigorate our teaching practices, and renew our commitment to inspiring young minds. This period of transition holds immense potential for both personal and professional development, and it is essential that we approach it with enthusiasm and optimism.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work. Your commitment to educating and empowering our students does not go unnoticed. The impact you have on their lives is profound, and it is reflected in the excellent exam results we have celebrated last month. These results are not just numbers; they represent significant milestones in our students' educational journeys and play a crucial role in shaping their future opportunities.

Your efforts have directly contributed to enhancing the life chances of the children we serve, and for that, you deserve recognition and praise. As Nelson Mandela aptly said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". BET's game-changer ethos exemplifies this powerful belief.

New beginnings in education often come with a blend of excitement and apprehension. Each school year presents a new group of students, potentially new curriculum demands, and perhaps even new teaching technologies or methodologies (Project ERA et al). While these changes can initially feel overwhelming, they are also an invitation to rejuvenate our approach to teaching. By viewing these changes through a lens of opportunity, we are able to transform challenges into catalysts for innovation.

As John Dewey, an influential education reformer, once stated, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself". This perspective encourages us to continuously evolve our practices to better meet the needs of our students.

Moreover, new beginnings provide an opportunity to build stronger relationships with students. Each cohort of students brings a unique set of needs, interests, and dynamics. Establishing a positive and collaborative classroom culture from the outset can foster a sense of belonging and motivate students to achieve their best. As Maya Angelou eloquently put it, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"

The academic year 2024-25 will be a landmark year for BET as we are ten years old! Please look out for, and get involved in, the many opportunities to celebrate and come together this year to recognise this seminal moment in our history. We are planning a very special INSET Day in June to reflect, repose and recognise our very many achievements and artefacts of BET culture.

NEIL STROWGER

Trust Leader of BET



SIXTH FORMERS AT BET SCHOOLS CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING RESULTS

STUDENTS AT BOHUNT SIXTH FORM AND STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL SIXTH FORM CELEBRATED IN AUGUST, HAVING RECEIVED THEIR A LEVEL RESULTS – ENABLING THEM TO SECURE PLACES AT PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND TAKE THEIR DESIRED NEXT STEPS.

At Bohunt Sixth Form, an amazing percentage – over 40% – of exam entries achieved A*/A grades with a remarkable 16% of the cohort achieving straight A*/A grades, and 90% securing places at their first-choice universities.

At Steyning Grammar School, students excelled with 27% of grades at A*/A, 45% at A*-B and 69% at A*-C across A Level and Applied subjects.

Students' excellent results at both sixth forms are testament to the hard work and commitment shown throughout their studies. Individual standout achievements included:

Anna P, who will pursue a Masters in Physics at Oxford

Rose J, who will study Classics at Cambridge

Lottie S, who achieved A*, A*, A* and will study Medicine at Manchester

Rory D, who secured a degree apprenticeship at JP Morgan

Clare Hodgson, Head of Bohunt Sixth Form, said:

"We are extremely proud of all our students receiving their results. Over the last two years, they have all shown immense

commitment, resilience and motivation to undertake their studies and achieve such excellent outcomes."

Adam Whitehead, Headteacher at Steyning Grammar School, said:

"We are delighted to see so many of our students achieve results which will enable them to secure places at university, high level apprenticeships or their desired careers. Their outcomes reflect their hard work over the past two years, achieved with support from parents and the staff at Steyning Grammar School."

Neil Strowger, Headteacher at Bohunt School and Trust Leader at Bohunt Education Trust, said:

"We are immensely proud of our 2024 cohort's efforts and achievements. These students have remained positive despite significant disruption to their studies whilst working towards GCSEs. Their resilience, determination and hard work has resulted in so many securing places at top universities and going on to pursue their desired next steps and we wish them all the very best for their future."



BET STUDENTS TAKE TO THE POLLS FOR PARALLEL ELECTIONS

IN JULY, STUDENTS ACROSS BET TOOK TO THE POLLS TO VOTE IN PARALLEL ELECTIONS, OFFERING THEM THE CHANCE TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE UK ELECTION PROCESS.



Students looked at national policies via party manifestos and local candidate's statements within their school's constituency. A couple of schools also heard from their local representatives.

On the day, each school set up a polling station with students given a ballot paper to vote for their preferred candidate. On Friday 5 July, the day after the voting took place, the winners for each school were announced and an overall majority across BET schools went to the Labour party, reflecting the national vote.

The event was really popular with students, with a strong voting turnout in each school.

Eve, Year 10 student, said: "We have really enjoyed meeting the local candidates and putting them on the spot about their party's pledges. It's vital we understand the different commitments being made by different political parties and the routes that our country could take. We are all eagerly anticipating the result of our school election and the General Election."

Edward, Year 10 student, said: "Even though we can't vote in the General Election this time, we've really valued the opportunity to think about and discuss our views on the issues that matter to us in our society. Exercising our democratic rights is a hugely important privilege that we shouldn't take for granted, especially when there are still places in our world where people are denied this right."



TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT: BET LEADER COMMENTS ON A LEVEL RESULTS

BET LEADER, NEIL STROWGER, COMMENTED IN THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT (TES) ON THIS YEAR'S A LEVEL RESULTS:

"Neil Strowger, CEO of Bohunt Education Trust in the South East, told Tes that he had been pleasantly surprised to see students who had not quite achieved their offered grades being accepted to their first-choice universities.

He said it was amazing that students had achieved these outcomes given the challenges they have faced, adding "without

that support from teachers and others that they [students] have had, they would not have achieved as strongly".

Read the full article at: <https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/secondary/a-level-results-2024-resilience-in-face-of-disruption>



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How resilience in the face of disruption defined this year's A-level cohort

School and trust leaders pay tribute to students this A-level results day for overcoming disruption through lockdowns, mental health challenges and teacher shortages

16th August 2024, 6:00am

Jasmine Norden, Matilda Martin, Cerys Turner



THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL WIN THE BET CUP

OVER THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR, TEAMS FROM BET'S NINE SCHOOLS HAVE MET TO COMPETE IN A BID TO WIN THE BET CUP. STUDENTS HAVE BATTLED IT OUT IN A RANGE OF SPORTS INCLUDING BASKETBALL, GYMNASTICS AND CRICKET



The event concluded on Thursday 4 July with the athletics competition where The Petersfield School (TPS) started the day with a one point lead over Steyning Grammar School and a three point lead over Bohunt Wokingham. At the halfway point in the day, the BET Cup was in the balance; however TPS stood strong and sealed the BET Cup with victory in the girls 4x200m in the second to last race of the day.

A huge congratulations to TPS on their first time winning the cup, to Steyning Grammar and Bohunt Wokingham for finishing in joint second place and to all the students who took part.



STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL EARNs TOP SIAMS RATING FOR EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN VISION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL (SGS) HAS BEEN AWARDED A JUDGEMENT I IN ITS LATEST STATUTORY INSPECTION OF ANGLICAN AND METHODIST SCHOOLS (SIAMS) REPORT, WITH INSPECTORS PRAISING THE SCHOOL FOR BEING “WELCOMING”, “INCLUSIVE” AND “GIVING EQUAL CARE” TO ALL.



The inspection, which took place on 15 and 16 May 2024, is the first for the school under the new framework which came into force in September 2023. It evaluated how effective the school is in its distinctive Christian vision, which for SGS is “to live life in all its fullness and flourish as God intended (John 10:10).”

Assessing how this vision is established and promoted by leadership at all levels, inspectors found that “students and adults flourish because the Christian vision is at the very core of the school”. The report also commends the school’s vision for being a living reality, with “senior leaders fully committed to ensuring it is lived out daily.”

In addition to praising the partnerships the school has, inspectors also referenced the impact of the school’s work with the local governing body, Bohunt and the local diocese for monitoring and evaluating the work of the school effectively to maintain its Christian character.

Adam Whitehead, Headteacher of SGS said: “This report captures the unique character of our school and we are grateful

for the tremendous efforts of everyone across our school community to ensure we all flourish in the most holistic sense of the word.

“We welcome external validation as part of our ongoing journey of improvement and review the impact of the strategic direction of the school. We are particularly proud that the report recognises the kindness and compassion of our ‘SGS family’, and that our students are polite, respectful, tolerant and helpful.” Our Christian vision and heritage continue to guide our work and serve as a spiritual anchor.

Neil Strowger, Leader of BET said: “I am delighted with this report, and to have supported Steyning Grammar School in upholding its distinctive vision and ethos that enables all students to flourish. We are committed to providing the resources and guidance to ensure the school maintains its strong Christian character, while delivering an outstanding education.”

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: CHURCHILL FELLOWS PHIL AVERY AND ANNA MORRISON CBE CHAMPION HOLISTIC ENGAGEMENT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

BET'S VERY OWN DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PHIL AVERY, WHO IS ALSO A CHURCHILL FELLOW, TOGETHER WITH ANNA MORRISON CBE – FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS – HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION AND ENABLING ALL STUDENTS TO THRIVE.

Their recent collaborative efforts, as members of the Churchill Advisory Council, have focused on creating inclusion learning environments and addressing the challenges faced by students who struggle to engage with traditional educational approaches.

Phil commented: "There has always been a significant emphasis in education on driving attainment (getting higher grades). Importance is also placed on broader achievement, for example the Duke of Edinburgh awards and participation in the school show.

"But all this misses out an important element of education: how engaged children are. What we are trying to do in this programme is take a more holistic approach focused on the 'how' and look at what engages children and makes them feel like a successful learner.

"If we can understand what engages children in their learning and education, then that should improve attendance and wellbeing. But this programme is wider than simply addressing non-

attendees, or those who are unwell; it is also about helping all children, including those who are in school and setting them all up for a positive future."

Anna said: "I come from a slightly different angle to Phil, as he works directly in education, and I work in the apprenticeship space. So, I am really interested in what is happening to young people in schools but also how that goes on to influence what they do.

"There are a number of areas we feel passionate about – whether that's absenteeism, teacher retention, careers education – but we didn't want to focus this programme on just one topic. We wanted something that was broad enough to capture as much as possible, without limiting ourselves."

Read more from Phil and Anna at: www.churchillfellowship.org/news-views/blogs/supporting-engagement-in-education-enabling-all-students-to-thrive/



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



STUDENTS AT BOHUNT SCHOOL WORTHING EMBRACE NATURE



Bohunt School Worthing's Eco Garden is rapidly becoming a sanctuary for both wildlife and students. It provides a vital green space that transforms the school environment into a more inviting and serene place. This initiative aligns perfectly with their commitment to creating an eco-friendly and sustainable school.

Beyond its environmental benefits, the Eco Garden offers invaluable educational experiences. Students gain hands-on knowledge about growing their food, understanding the importance of fresh produce, and experiencing the joy and responsibility of nurturing living things. This direct engagement with nature is crucial for their mental and physical health, providing a peaceful retreat and a practical learning space.

Moreover, the Eco Garden plays a pivotal role in the school's broader sustainability efforts. It helps reduce emissions, conserve water, and encourage biodiversity, teaching students the importance of environmental stewardship from an early age.

Bohunt School Worthing believes in the holistic development of our students as well as the vitally important Academic focus. The



Eco Garden is a testament to our dedication to providing an enriching educational environment that prepares our students for a sustainable future.

Daniel and Nicoleta representatives of the Eco committee think "The eco garden is important because it makes the school more eco-friendly and it has helped new students like me settle in our new school. It helps us improve our creativity, patience and can help us with gardening. So far the eco club has been a help to a lot of people including me and will probably continue to help people. Not only do we grow plants but we can also eat it and we hope to soon provide it for the school"

"The eco garden is important since it provides a safe space for wildlife and students. It also makes the school more eco friendly and makes it look and feel like a nicer environment. Secondly, children get to experience the rewards of fresh produce and growing their own food. They also get to connect with nature which can be very beneficial mentally and physically. In addition, an eco-friendly garden can reduce emissions, encourage biodiversity and save water"



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



GAYLE RENNIE, ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER TEACHING AND LEARNING

What inspired you to be a teacher?

The desire to 'Pay it Forward' to those who follow; the idea of 'Standing on the Shoulders of Giants.' I have been incredibly lucky to be guided by some wonderful teachers and educators, throughout my own education and I wanted to do the same for others.

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

Honestly... There has never been any other 'dream' other than being a teacher, which I set my heart on when I was 12 years old. I tell myself I could have been a Forensic Scientist, a Paramedic or a Doctor perhaps; but if truth be told, I am awful with blood, so none were ever viable career paths.

What's the best part of your job?

Working with those around you... I always 'Aspire for Excellence' and want to empower those around me to be the very best version of themselves. This extends to everyone, staff and students alike. Nothing makes me prouder as a professional, than seeing others succeed; be that a student achieving a skill or a staff member attain the recognition they deserve.

Who are your heroes?

There are many people who I admire across many walks of life such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Jesse Owens. Mainly for their stance against, and their work to overcome injustice and inequality. However, I have only ever had one hero, and that is my A-Level biology teacher, Mrs Pat Winter.

Why did you choose to teach at Bohunt Worthing?

I moved to Sussex in 2018 and became aware of the Bohunt Trust schools. I was fortunate to visit a Bohunt school in 2022, where I was impressed with the ethos and values within Bohunt. I feel I am able to embody the values of 'enjoy, respect, achieve' with pride. In January 2024, my wife and I welcomed the birth of our first son. Moving to work at BSW allows me the opportunity to join a trust which I strongly believe in and help lead a school where I can see my long term future. My new role at BSW allows me to 'Pay it Forward' to our staff and students, while working closer to home and therefore be a little more present in my son's day to day life.

Tell me a little about a teacher that inspired you.

My hero is my A-Level biology teacher, Mrs Pat Winter; she is the reason I have been able to succeed and attain as a teacher and a leader. Pat was able to see a potential in me and showed me a level of empathy which went way beyond what I could ever have hoped for; as Pat said, she thought I 'deserved a little extra help.'

My Year 12 studies were anything but straightforward; one school closure, two staff departures, and 25 students leaving the course, meant I was the only student remaining at the start of Year 13. Pat stepped in and took sole charge of my studies, to ensure I was able to achieve the grades I required to enter University.

Sadly, Pat died suddenly, six months after I started my degree, therefore I have never been able to 'pay Pat back' for her support and faith in me. At Pat's funeral, I was told to 'Pay it Forward' and do for someone else, what Pat had done for me. This is the reason I strive to support staff and students alike; to ensure I can 'Pay it Forward' to honour Pat, and the lifelong opportunities she gave so willingly to me.



What are your thoughts on education today?

Education always has been and always will be, the 'key' to open every door; the key to improvement and further development of yourself. Our current educational climate has brought many challenges over recent years and we have been forced to change, adapt and evolve at speeds unknown to previous leaders.

I have been teaching for over 20 years and am excited at the prospect of new technologies and enhancements in our understanding of how students learn best; and how to nurture this most successfully. I am, at heart, an educationalist, who strives to help others achieve their very best. The landscape ahead is ever changing and I am enthusiastic to help lead BSW forwards, and on to the next stage in its ongoing development.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



A SPACE FOR READING AND REFLECTION



Following the sad loss of a much loved staff member, colleagues at BSW wanted to create a quiet place for contemplation and a memorial for Karen Cash who worked as a cover teacher since 2019.

A little used access area at the back of the library has been transformed into a garden space for reading and reflection - for students and staff alike. Following a successful Sponsored Walk, donations were put to good use, providing outdoor posters for the area. These promote the books studied in English (as well as Karen's favourite genre: Thrillers and Crime) and a rose has been planted in her memory.

Despite the north-facing area being somewhat shady and windy; the plants are now thriving and Year 7 and 8 readers are keen to use the new deckchairs during their Library lessons. The lack of Summer sunshine hasn't dampened their enthusiasm. Pasha (Year 7) commented, "If the Atrium is too loud I can go somewhere quiet and read."

The area is popular at break and lunchtimes too. Staff members can grab a peaceful five minutes and the deckchairs are compatible with laptop use! Members of the Pastoral team are able to use the quiet space for time outs with their students.

George (Yr 9) said he liked to be there because, "You get away from all the hustle and bustle that happens in the building and can just sit and chill." When the seasons change and Autumn approaches, the area is sure to be a draw for the new Year 7 intake too.

Karen brought so much joy to the staff and students lives at Bohunt Worthing and it is fantastic that there is now a space made in her memory where she is still creating happiness.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

GIANNA L SHARES HER EXPERIENCE OF THE MASTERCHEF COMPETITION AT BOHUNT WOKINGHAM

For the first round of the Masterchef competition I cooked a Chinese curry which my mum taught me. I really enjoyed making it as I really enjoy cooking. For the second round I was feeling nervous as I didn't expect to make it past the first round!

Cooking was a hobby that I picked up a while ago through my mum showing me how to make different dishes. I prefer cooking sweet foods over savoury foods so I made macaroons for the second round.

For the third round I made some pineapple cakes and surprisingly I got into the final round! The other competitors came up with many amazing ideas and I was shocked to be able to compete in the finals.

For the finals I made octopus balls and a different version of the pineapple cake which was savoury. I was ecstatic to have won Masterchef and I learnt that by perseverance you can do anything and that if you don't get it the first time you can always try again. I hope to keep on cooking and when I'm older I want to become a cafe owner as I really hope to continue cooking for everyone around me.



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



TAYLOR VAN ROOY, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR AND SOCIAL MEDIA ASSISTANT,
BOHUNT WOKINGHAM

What's your favourite line from a film?

"I never look back, darling. It distracts from the now." - The Incredibles

What's your personal mantra?

"Change is the only constant in life."

What's your favourite part of the job?

Besides the abundance of sweet treats that magically appear in the office, my favourite part of the job is getting to know the students and watching them grow and mature. It brings me immense joy to connect with the students and see their vibrant personalities shine as they navigate the crazy time that is adolescence and teenagehood.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I see myself in a hot country, exploring the local foods and cultures while developing my skills and abilities for my career.

How did you get into being a social media assistant?

I was singled out by Sarah J, our last head's PA, who assumed that because of my age, I would be a pro at social media. So, I offered to help!

Cats or dogs?

Both. However, I respect cats more as I know their love is conditional and needs to be earned.

Describe your best moment at work:

Last year, I did the Year 7 and Year 8 Operation Encounter back-to-back, which fell on my birthday. Having most of Year 8 sing happy birthday to me was actually really wholesome and a unique birthday experience I will always remember!

What's your greatest achievement?

Honestly, I was quite a lazy student in my school days and never wanted to try hard. My politics teacher, who I hold dear, had a stern but sensitive heart-to-heart with me in my first year of A-levels because I was failing. I broke down in fear and disappointment, realising I was heading down a path I didn't want. Gradually, with the right support from my teachers, I started to show up for myself and put in the work, securing A*, A, and B in my A-levels and going to university to explore my academic passions. That was a really big personal achievement for me.

What or who inspires you?

Nelson Mandela inspires me deeply. Especially because I am South African myself, my dad's second cousin, F.W. de Klerk, who was South Africa's president and released Mandela from jail, has been a significant influence. This familial connection has inspired my interest in politics and motivated me to pursue the study of politics academically during A-levels and university. Mandela's journey, coupled with my family's connection to de Klerk, has deeply shaped my commitment to advocating for justice, freedom, and equality in society.



HUGE TURNOUT FOR THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL'S GENERAL ELECTION



As part of the General Election, The Petersfield School ran a parallel election called TPS Votes and on 4 July, students came out of lessons to vote, using ballot papers in booths in the Studio. The results were counted and the outcome shared with the school community.

The school held special assemblies explaining how our parliamentary democracy and general elections work, and we invited the candidates standing in East Hampshire from the five national parties (this is the constituency where TPS is located but we invited the national party candidates because our children come from 7 different constituencies in total) to a series of TPS Question Time events where students could come along and ask them questions about their policies.

Student journalists investigated the policies of the five national parties and put together videos focusing on the policies that will impact younger people the most (Education, Environment & Climate, Cost of Living and Healthcare). After the Question Time events, the student journalists interviewed the candidates,

and the videos were shared with all students in the school during tudor times.

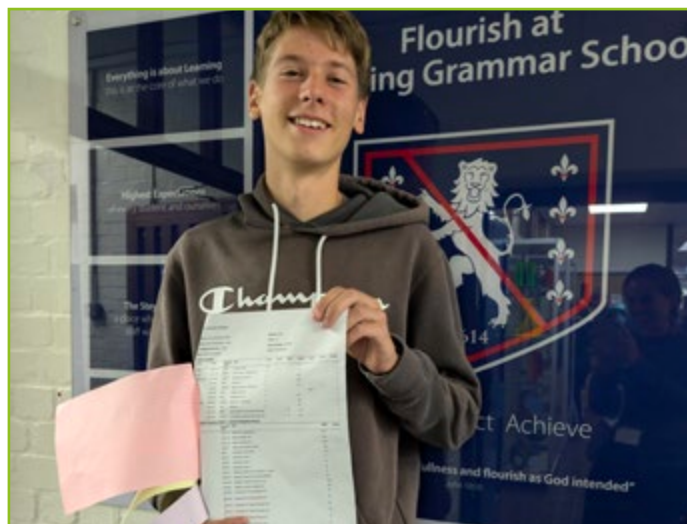
With 907 votes cast, TPS had a huge turnout of 84%, considerably higher than the national general election turnout at just 66.8%. The Lib Dems won the overall vote at TPS, which mirrored the TPS student election result back in 2019. Our students largely rejected the two largest national parties and instead voted for smaller parties in large numbers.

Headteacher Mark Marande said, "We are very passionate about engaging our students with the general election and politics more widely. We want them to get 'into the habit' of voting, grappling local, national and global issues and exercising their democratic rights. I have been hugely impressed with how much enthusiasm the students have shown for grilling our local candidates and learning about the manifestos of the different parties. We have shared with them the importance of being active participants in their society and I am very encouraged for the future led by them and their generation."



2024 RESULTS DAY ACROSS BET SCHOOLS





SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING!



TPS was absolutely delighted to receive an outstanding rating from their recent Ofsted inspection, confirming that the school continues to be Outstanding in all areas.

Ofsted inspections are thorough and take place at short notice – the inspectors look in detail to see how a school has performed over time and on a typical day. They saw Team TPS in action; how our enjoy respect achieve values are embodied in all they do; how students speak with pride and passion about their school, and they recognised this to be 'Outstanding'.

We are particularly proud that this inspection took place under the new, tougher inspection framework and against Ofsted's stated policy of reducing the number of outstanding schools nationally – meaning that TPS is now one of only two secondary schools to be 'Outstanding' out of over 70 in Hampshire.

Some highlights from the report include:

- Pupils and staff feel proud to be a part of 'Team TPS'
- Pupils achieve very well academically and grow personally
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary...[they] enjoy their learning and respect their teachers
- Pupils benefit from an exceptionally wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which helps them to develop their character and pursue their interests
- A strength of this school is how well the curriculum and its delivery enables all pupils to succeed
- Working with colleagues across (Bohunt Education Trust), the school has put in place a highly ambitious curriculum
- Leaders [have a] passion for ensuring all pupils achieve well and enjoy their time at The Petersfield School
- Parents praised the rounded education the school provides

The Petersfield School Ofsted Report has been published on the Ofsted website. The current Ofsted framework means that they aim to visit schools judged outstanding about once every four years.

A massive thank you to all of our families for their incredible support for the school and their positive feedback to Ofsted. As the saying goes 'it takes a village to raise a child', and we appreciate your partnership in helping us to provide the best possible education for our students.

We look forward to continuing to offer the exceptional opportunities and unrivalled student experience highlighted in this report.

Mark Marande, Headteacher, said, "It is fantastic to have Ofsted confirm that TPS continues to be an outstanding school in every category, and this reflects the hard work and dedication of both our school community and from colleagues within the wider family of schools.

We are incredibly proud of this judgement and the students, staff, governors and parents spoke to the inspectors with real passion and pride about their school. We look forward to continuing to provide an unrivalled experience and exceptional opportunities, built upon our commitment to being a 'school with a heart'."

Mike Robinson, Chair of Governors, said, "As Chair of Governors, I speak for all of my colleagues when I state that we are consistently impressed by the pupils' positive attitude and the staff's unwavering commitment to continuous improvement across all areas of the school. The recent Ofsted inspection has validated what we have long believed: TPS is a remarkable and truly outstanding institution. Congratulations to everyone involved for effectively conveying their passion, dedication, and expertise." Neil Strowger, Trust Leader at Bohunt Education Trust, said, "I am thrilled – though not surprised! – by this outstanding judgement, which celebrates and epitomises the high expectations and depth of collaboration across our family of schools. We provide our schools with the support and tools necessary to be outstanding in their provision of educational excellence for students. A single word can never adequately capture all a school is or does: by embracing our ethos of, 'enjoy respect achieve', TPS has nurtured an exceptional learning environment that ensures every child enjoys learning, respects their community and achieves their full potential."

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



STEYNING STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY GROW RARE STARFRUIT

A rare plant, extinct for 150 years, is now blooming again thanks to green fingered students at SGS.

A year ago Roots Gardening Society was set up at The Towers site. The students from this lunch club planted and successfully nurtured Starfruit seedlings in their school greenhouse, until they were ready to be transplanted in a pond in Sussex woodland. Initial success was dampened by sadness as they lost some of the seedlings, however they persevered and had three established plants by October at which point they were ready to be planted out at the pond. These plants sat alongside several grown in a controlled environment at Wakehurst gardens, and are the first of the species to be grown in the wild in over a century.

The journey began in May last year, when students visited the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place, an underground collection of more than 2.4 billion seeds from around the world. Here they learned, from Chris Cockel, UK Conservation Projects Coordinator, all about the plant, which has been extinct in Sussex since the 19th Century. Chris explained it was a "Schedule 8 plant", meaning it is rare enough to be legally protected.

The students collected the Starfruit seeds from the seed bank vault and prepared the matting, propagator and tools needed to transplant them back to the school greenhouse. Members of the



gardening club tended to them as they grew (even taking turns to look after them over the summer holidays). The students worked on the project in partnership with Matthew Thomas from local conservation group the Steyning Downland Scheme and Greening Steyning. Matthew said: "We have everything we need to now grow this magnificent plant and have the only starfruit location in the whole of Sussex."

Assistant headteacher at The Towers, Emer Nicholson Harris, said: Growing up in the West of Ireland I have always had a strong link to nature and the land. I understand how rewarding it can be to watch something grow from seed and I was keen to get students involved in the gardening club so they could see the benefits of this. When Robin Johnson from Greening Steyning first approached me about the project I was eager for our students to get involved so we could leave a lasting legacy in Sussex. Alongside the Starfruit project students had incredible success growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



CAREERS EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS AT STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Teachers at SGS have been learning how to bring careers education into the classroom -to help students see how the subjects they are learning can help them later in life.

The group of five: Odain Farquharson (Maths), Pippa Tillman (English), Megan Anscombe (Science), Natalie Hathaway (Senco) and Sarah Lindsell (ICT and Careers) attended a two day Teacher Encounters course in the South Downs National Park in July.

The aim of the course was to inspire teachers to think about how they could embed careers into the curriculum. Following the course, which was described as “eye opening” by Sarah, the teachers are all looking at how they can implement what they learnt into their subject area.

Sarah added: “It might be, for example, when students start a new unit in science, they look at how the information within that unit could be needed in certain jobs and we can be talking to students about how learning about angles in maths could one day help them with a career in architecture or that story interpretation (in English) could be used in gaming. We think that if a student understands why they are learning something then they will be even more likely to engage.”



SGS is already introducing “Careers in the Curriculum” sessions once a fortnight in tutor time for students in Year 8 to 11, focussing on three different careers each time, with an emphasis on job roles which are growing. During these sessions the students will also be shown where in the country these types of jobs are located.

While in the South Downs, the teachers spent time learning about the job roles within the South Downs National Park Authority, from rangers to human resources. SGS recently hosted its annual careers fair for Year 10 and 12 students, a valuable opportunity to speak face to face with employers from a wide range of industries. The careers team invited representatives from dozens of companies such as accountants Carpenter Box, South Downs National Park, Sussex Police and SME precision engineering.

The day was also packed with expert talks from guest speakers - about how to shine at an interview or in a job application and how to match your skills to the right career path.

Year 12 student Aaron said: “I really liked it that I could ask people from the companies what sorts of things they are looking for in a trainee. It was very useful.”



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

PRIORY STUDENTS ENJOY A GAME-CHANGING TRIP TO KENYA



Students Charles and Harry share their experiences from their recent trip to Kenya and the memories and lessons they are taking away with them.

When I stepped off of the nine hour plane ride into Kenya, at first it felt like a completely different world. The moon waning in the wrong way, 25 degrees at night and bugs the size of my hand! But due to the hospitality shown by our guides, Wisdom and David, a pair of characters I will certainly not forget, I was able to soon adjust to another kind of life.

Teaching and interacting with the kids was a remarkable experience, and one that I will remember for a very long time. I thought it was unbelievable how high spirited the children were despite how unfortunate some of their early lives had been. Later in the trip, we had the opportunity to visit some of their homes and this was extremely hard to see because of the state they were living in.

It is a lesson I've learnt far greater than any here in England. - **Charles M-T**

Kenya for me was a life changing experience, not only did we see wonders of nature: with the thompson falls, the safari around Lake Nakuru and the feeding of giraffes at the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi, but we connected with the children and adults of the area and made relationships that will stay with me forever.



During our four days volunteering in local schools, Jubilee academy for some and West End academy for others, we taught subjects ranging from teaching the younger kids 1 to 10 in English, to showing the others children the skittles diffusion experience. It was a true joy to see their faces light up when they got something right and especially when we told them they could eat the spare skittles we had brought.

The most poignant moment for me was when we had to leave. After building such strong relationships with the kids, our new friends, we had to leave knowing that we may never see them again, leaving them in a sense of poverty some may never understand yet, leaving them so happy and leaving us changed people. Most, if not all of us, cried as we shared popcorn, cake and chapati with a sense of unity settling between us all. I'm sure that all of us who went on the expedition to Kenya treasure the memories that we made and sincerely appreciate all the sacrifices made for us to get there in one piece. - **Harry N**



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

D DAY COMMEMORATIONS FOR PRIORY STUDENTS



This year was the 80th anniversary of D-Day and being fortunate enough to be in a city that had such close connections to that event, many of Priory School's students were able to take part in a wide array of D-Day commemorations and events throughout the week of 3-6 June. Much of the focus around D-Day 80 is about making sure younger generations are aware of the sacrifices made and that they help keep the story alive. Priory staff have worked hard this year to find opportunities for our students to engage with the commemorations ensuring they understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by so many to secure their liberties and lifestyle today.

On Monday 3 June a group of Priory students visited the D-Day Museum in Southsea to attend a Q&A session with veterans. Students spent time listening to the stories and experiences of those who were travelling the next day to Normandy to be a part of the events in France. Ken Hay (age 98) described his experiences to Year 9 pupils recalling "I was in uniform with a steel helmet, a rifle and ammunition." He was in a group advancing towards Hill 112 as part of the 43rd West Division. One night in July he was sent on a night patrol to get rid of a self-propelled gun. The soldiers also included his brother. "Of our patrol of 30, I found out after the war, 26 got back. The battle lasted two or three hours. Five of us got captured and nine were killed. I was 18 and it was quite terrifying."

On Tuesday 4th there was a very special event organised by South Western Railway to rename a train 'The D-Day Story, Portsmouth'. Both Priory School students and TPS students were invited to be part of this unique event, and head teachers Stewart Vaughan and Mark Marande were both able to join the students on this historic train ride. Both schools joined the train from their closest station as it headed down from London to Portsmouth Harbour where they met up with the Lord Mayor and other VIPs and were welcomed to the station by a brass band and local press to hold the official naming ceremony. After the event all students were taken to the D-Day Story Museum for a look around and opportunity to go aboard the Landing Craft Tank LCT 7074 and sit in military vehicles all there for the big Commemoration event on the following day.

Wednesday was the pinnacle of the National D-Day 80 Commemorations and was televised live on the BBC. Having been fortunate enough to secure 60 tickets to the exclusive event hosted by Dame Helen Mirren,



Priory students and staff joined the many military personnel, politicians, dignitaries, veterans and their families, local residents and schools for a moving and spectacular afternoon of tributes, performances, videos, songs and dances. We were fortunate to have Their Royal Highnesses King Charles and Queen Camilla address the audience, along with Prince William, and then PM Rishi Sunak. The stories we heard of veterans' feelings of anticipation, excitement, fear and confidence prior to D-Day, as expressed in their letters and diaries, was extremely emotional for everyone in attendance.

At 12.30 the Red Arrows flew over and painted the sky in their signature red white and blue colours, something which students back at school also had the chance to enjoy as the planes thundered over the school. The staff and students were extremely fortunate to have been involved and many returned to Southsea Common that same evening to see the evening performances and drone show which was also spectacular.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

GIRLS IN STEM AT BOHUNT SCHOOL



In June, 21 Year 8 girls went on an exciting trip to Whitman Laboratories for an Estée Lauder based STEM experience. The students were provided with lab safe PPE and were given a tour of the factory floor, which included seeing La Mer hand cream ingredients mixed, and Jo Malone fragrances bottled.

Students were then able to explore the different career opportunities that are available within the company by taking part in a variety of STEM-themed workshops, including a "Match the Scent" task, which explored the quality control that takes place in the laboratories on site. The students were given a variety of Jo Malone perfumes and were tasked with matching the correct scent to the correct name.

The students were able to finish their day by designing their own product line for an Estée Lauder company and pitching this in a "Dragon's Den" style boardroom. The Dragons were extremely impressed with the innovation, creativity and sustainability of each group's products.

"We were thrilled to host a STEM Day for this incredible group of students from Bohunt School. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they engaged in hands-on activities and interactive workshops. At Estée Lauder, we are committed to fostering a love for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in young minds. Events like these are essential for empowering the next generation of innovators and leaders – and there are most certainly a great number of them in this group! We look forward to continuing our support for STEM education and helping to create a more inclusive and diverse future in these fields. A big thank you to everyone that attended!" – Gaby McVeigh, Whitman Laboratories, Estée Lauder Companies



"The trip was inspirational, and interesting to see how lots of people from different backgrounds will work together under the different areas of STEM." – Poppy

"Visiting Estée Lauder was an interesting experience that showed us many different ways girls can become involved in STEM. It was especially fascinating to see how the products went through the different stages of design, testing, manufacturing and packaging. This enhanced our ideas of STEM careers and was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about this area of STEM." – Millie



"I found the trip really interesting and I was surprised at how many roles and jobs there are at Estée Lauder using stem. I learnt a lot about the process products must go through before they are sold. I also really enjoyed the different activities we did like smelling perfumes, looking at the designs of products and designing some of our own. The trip was very inspiring and I think many of us who went might go on to have the jobs we learnt about." – Helena

BAE SYSTEMS

Shortly afterwards, to celebrate International Women in Engineering Day, a group of Year 9 girls were invited to Portsmouth Guildhall by BAE systems for an inspiring day learning about STEM engineering careers.

It started with icebreakers and then an introduction about Engineering where students found out more about BAE systems Maritime and how 40% of their workforce are now women.

Students moved on to practical workshops, including engineering and communication challenges. After lunch they explored key career and interview skills and heard career stories from eight brilliant female engineers.

"It was great to hear that BAE beat their recruitment target of 33% women engineering apprentices last year – when I started mine 30 years ago, it was 10%. Onwards and upwards" – Dr Maria Watson (Physics teacher)



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



EXCHANGES RETURN TO BOHUNT SCHOOL



SPANISH EXCHANGE 2024

Bohunt School recently celebrated their first Spanish exchange since 2019.

21 Year 10 students visited Spain in March. Their host partner school is IES Juan De Herrera in the beautiful town of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, on the outskirts of Madrid.

They enjoyed a dance masterclass, Spanish family life, a visit to a theme park, a visit to the famous town of Toledo, the capital of Spain, Madrid, and a visit to their local monument of El Escorial.

Their Spanish visitors returned to them in June and Bohunt students got the chance to take part in an excursion with their partners to Portsmouth where we visited the Historic dockyards, and the Spanish visitors enjoyed a day in London – with the London Eye and a riverboat cruise, and a visit to Hampton Court Palace.

One host parent said: The Spanish visit was a huge success, many thanks for all your help organising – Marta and Paula said their highlights were the London Eye, our trampoline in the garden and the visit they all made with some of the group to Max's house – they also loved the fish and chip supper we organised!

One student said: When I went to Spain, I was very nervous to start with and to go and live with someone else I had never met but as soon as I met them and settled in, I felt really comfortable and I've made life-long friendships.

I really enjoyed hanging out with the Spanish because everyone was so nice and kind and I felt like we had been friends for years because we all got along so well.

Another student said: Going into the exchange, I was super nervous

but as soon as I was out there spending time with everyone, I settled in straight away. Both weeks in Spain and here were so fun; I would 100% do it again.

And one final comment from another student: When I first arrived in Spain, I was very nervous but super excited. When I met my exchange partner and her family, I instantly felt welcomed into their home. It was an amazing opportunity and an event that I will never forget. Along with this, the activities we did were very interesting and we learnt lots of Madrid, El Escorial and Toledo.

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2024

Bohunt school's French partners visited us in late October last year and some great friendships were formed, which boded really well for our own visit to France. They had several days out in London and Portsmouth, and managed to avoid most of the very rainy weather we had at the time. They also enjoyed a morning in school, a particular highlight being a shared lesson with year 10 CLiL students.

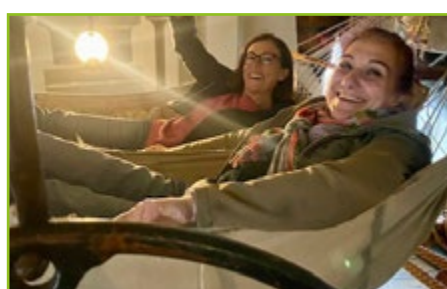
When our Bohunt students visited their exchange partners at the school of Lycee Marseilleveyre in Marseille, they had an equally wonderful time.

They enjoyed a boat trip to islands of Marseille, exploring the city, a day in school, family life, time at the beach, the Cannes festival (where they spotted Kevin Costner and Lucas Bravo on the red carpet!), a visit to Aix-en-Provence with its ancient architecture, and a trip to Arles.

A Bohunt teacher said: It was fantastic to meet with our French colleagues after a 4 year break due to the pandemic. Our students (and staff!) really enjoyed staying and visiting this vibrant city. The sun shone throughout and we loved our visits in beautiful Aix en Provence and Arles.

A student said: The last day was extremely sad. Even though I knew I would meet my exchange partner again FOR SURE as we got on so well, I was very sad to go. I have definitely made a lifetime friend and the memories I have will stay with me forever.

I really recommend going on an exchange because although it seems scary, the school will do everything to try to make it an easy and fun trip and you will get a lot closer with the people on your trip, not just your exchange partner. I'm really grateful for having the opportunity to go to Marseille and to all the teachers that helped organise it!



BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



LAUREN CASTLE – RECEPTION TEACHER BOHUNT HORSHAM

As Bohunt Horsham welcomes its first cohort of Reception students, meet Lauren castle, BET's very first Reception teacher

Why did you choose a career in teaching?

I have always wanted to be a teacher, even when I was in primary school myself. I enjoy looking back at my own positive primary school experiences and envisioned that I would be able to create a nurturing, engaging and safe learning environment for my class. I also wanted to be able to have an impact on a child's development and inspire a love for learning.

What is your biggest achievement to date, personal or professional?

My biggest achievement to date is moving to and living in Dubai for four years! I had a wonderful time teaching there, meeting so many new people and learning about different cultures. It also gave me chances to travel to different countries in and around Asia!

What are you most looking forward to being Bohunt Education Trust's very first Reception teacher?

I feel very privileged to be the first Reception Teacher for the Bohunt Education Trust and I am excited for this opportunity. I am looking forward to developing a curriculum and environment that nurtures children in their individual learning journeys. I have already been working closely with Mrs Wright to ensure that we provide enriching experiences for the children and I am excited to meet the Ducklings very soon!

What do you like most about your job?

The progress that the children make in their Reception year is incredible and I love being a part of that journey. I am passionate about learning through play and believe in creating meaningful and engaging experiences for young children. I also appreciate that no two days are the same and enjoy witnessing those 'aha moments' that the children have when things start to click into place.

Who is the most famous person you have met?

I had the privilege of meeting Charles Duke, an astronaut who became the youngest person to journey to and walk on the moon. Hearing about his space expedition was truly incredible!

What advice would you give your younger self?

I would say to always live in the moment and to take risks!



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



BET BOOK AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SOPHIE J WILLS VISITS BET STUDENTS AT BOHUNT HORSHAM



Year 7 book groups across BET have been avidly reading five shortlisted books for the annual BET Book Awards. Parallel discussions and voting took place in April at BET schools where the students judged and voted for their favourite book. Their winning vote went to 'Bite Risk' by SJ Wills, a horror/comedy set in an ordinary town with ordinary people except for one night a month ... When everyone's a vicious beast, it's hard to spot the monsters.

This was an opportunity for the year 7 judges to meet Sophie J Wills to talk about her inspiration for the book as well as provide an exciting experience for Horsham's Year 7 students to meet an author.

Sophie grew up in Chelmsford, Essex where her parents let her read anything she wanted from the library. Whilst working as a freelance copy-editor she rediscovered her childhood love of writing. As a young girl, Sophie was a quiet, shy child and remembers experiences of having to read out aloud her writing. She realised that when she read out her stories in class, everyone was quiet, listening to her every word, particularly when she was writing horror and gore!

Her talk explained her love of reading and writing, and how she noticed



things from her senses, writing down what she saw, felt, and smelled - descriptions that added an extra dimension to her writing. She starts her writing with an idea, brainstorms it (writing down as many things she knows about it) develops it and revises/edits it before it evolves into a book ready for print.

Many questions from our eager BET Book Award students followed in a separate Q & A session where Sophie answered many questions about her writing. This visit created a buzz and her books have been requested regularly in the library.

'It was fun reading all the books as each was chosen carefully. The author's talk was inspiring and the winning choice was something everyone could agree with as it was such a good book' Lucas Yr7

'I enjoyed discussing the books as I felt reading the same books as everyone else and hearing their different opinions was good. I really enjoyed SJ Will's talk as it was nice to ask questions about the book to the actual author. I also enjoyed meeting up with all the Bohunt students and hearing their views on the books.' Joshua Yr7

Well done to all the students who took part in this brilliant event.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...

BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH'S WIZARD OF OZ: A SPELLBINDING PERFORMANCE

The start of July saw show week in full swing for Bohunt Farnborough. A cast and crew of passionate and talented students took to the stage for a magic two night performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'!

Friends and family were treated to a two part show brought to life by Dorothy and her troop of friend's on their way to meet 'The Wizard' himself. Both nights were a testament to the hard work of the students and Director Abi Mikowski as they captured the audience through song and dance!



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



BOHUNT FARNBOROUGH HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL GLOBAL FAIR



At Bohunt Farnborough lives are enriched by the students who have joined the school from around the world. A quarter of the schools' students speak at least one other language in addition to English, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience about other countries and cultures. To celebrate their diverse community and to give all of their students, their families and staff a special event in order to do this - hence the creation of the Global Fair.

This year was the school's fourth Global Fair and everyone agreed this was the best one yet. There was a fantastic turnout - around 350 people attended - and the sun shone after weeks of rain! Outside the hall were stalls with excellent Nepali Street Food, plants, books, and the ever-popular Snow Cones; also this year each House was represented with a stand featuring some great games. Inside you could get your hand tattooed by our talented team of Henna artists and enjoy delicious cakes, pastries and desserts from all over the world. As always, the highlight of the afternoon was watching our students shine with the most incredible dance displays and musical performances. The countries represented on the stage this year were: Portugal, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, South Africa, India, Moldova, the UK and Nepal. We were treated to a particularly stunning finale by our group of Year 9 girls and Year 10 boys of Nepali heritage who told a story through their dance routine. They have set the bar very high for next year.

The school would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this event by giving so generously of their time and energy... and cakes! It was wonderful to see so many families from the school community come together to enjoy the occasion, creating a fantastic atmosphere and sense of togetherness which is ultimately what the Global Fair is all about.

This year the chosen charity for the proceeds is the Farnborough branch of the Samaritans.



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



CURTAINS UP AT COSTELLO! LEARNING TO RESPECT UNIQUENESS WITH THE MATILDA JR. PRODUCTION



Students at The Costello school dazzled in its first musical performance since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The musical is a shortened version of the West End production, based on the Roahl Dahl book, Matilda. The story follows the five-year-old as she navigates school, bullies, disapproving parents and telepathy.

The show featured dance numbers such as Bruce, where their classmate tries to finish an enormous chocolate cake, as well as the sinister Chokey Chant, about a box with nails and glass to punish children.

Ballads including This Little Girl, about kind teacher Miss Honey dreaming of helping Matilda if she could be braver, and When I Grow Up, telling the story of what the children think their adult life would be like, are also included.

The three-night show marked the school's first musical performance since Covid-19, which was reflected in a roar of cheers and claps at the end of every scene.

Ava was excellent as the mischievous Matilda, delivering every line with passion whilst best friend Lavender, played by Isabelle, brought childlike wonder and joy to the stage.

Samiyah, as Headteacher Miss Trunchbull, made adults and children alike cower in fear, as the Wormwood family and Rodolpho, played by Lyla, Eszter, Lilliana and Lotty respectively, made the audience burst into laughter at every line.

Everyone on stage (and some off stage!) danced their hearts out, particularly during the School Song where they warned Matilda and her friends about the horrors of Crunchem Hall.

Ava (Matilda) said she thought the Friday night performance was their 'best night yet'.

She added that the cast spent lots of time after school preparing for the musical, including every week on a Tuesday for six months and at weekends.

Mr Spacagna (Art Teacher and key Matilda team member), who also built the set and played a Russian mafia member in Matilda, said: "I am so proud of all the students involved.

"Being able to learn all the lines, choreography and lyrics on top of their school studies and any other outside-of-school commitments should be recognised. Well done Matilda team!"



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT...



A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR HARRIET WELLBEING CENTRE



The Costello School were delighted to welcome Mayor Dan Putty to join them and the Tesco Team to celebrate winning the community blue token prize. The School was fortunate enough to not only be voted for by the Community in our local Tesco store but be selected by the Tesco Team to receive a golden donation that amounted to £5,000. A special mention to Mrs McBryde for her work to secure this community grant. We cannot wait to update you on the improvements we make to this provision with the very generous donation.

A number of students have recently taken part in training as Mental Health Ambassadors (MHA). They undertook 3 hours of training delivered by the Educational Mental Health Practitioners from the Mental Health Support Team, who come under the CAMHS umbrella. The students completed their training this academic year ready to begin their roles in September 2024.

The students have received training in issues surrounding mental wellbeing and how to:

- Identify signs of poor mental health
- Promote early identification and intervention
- Prevent deterioration and
- Boost resilience

The purpose of the role is for MHA to be an ally for other students to share difficulties they are experiencing in order to receive support. They act as a link between pupils and school staff and in their role will support their peers by listening to them and sharing their concerns with school staff. In addition to this they will be able to signpost them to services or offer resources.

This is what the students had to say about the training:

How did you find the training and what was the best part?

I found the training very interesting and eye opening to see the statistics of people struggling. My favourite part of the training was how you shouldn't treat people when asking for help.

How do you feel you will put this training into practice?

I feel like I would put this into practice whenever someone comes up to me that is struggling and especially when mocks, GCSEs and BET tests come around in just a couple years.

What would your advice be to other students thinking of training to be a mental health ambassador?

My advice would be if a part of you wants to be an ambassador, just do it because no matter how scared you are it's always going to be worth going to the training as you will learn so much about how to deal with situations when you or someone else is feeling scared or got anxiety you can always help them.

GOT NEWS?

Share school news, achievements, initiatives and more with your marketing contact or the BET Comms team for inclusion in BETTER Times.



EMAIL US:

comms@bohunttrust.com



SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS

Our family of schools are open this Autumn and looking forward to welcoming you!



The
Costello School
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1908

Thursday 10 October
5-8 pm



BOHUNT
FARNBOROUGH

Thursday 3 October
5-8 pm



BOHUNT
HORSHAM

Wednesday 18 September
4-8 pm



BOHUNT
SCHOOL

Thursday 26 September
5-8 pm



PRIORY
SCHOOL

Thursday 26 September
6-8 pm



Steyning
Grammar
School

The Towers:
Wednesday 25 September
5-8 pm
Rock Road:
Wednesday 2 October
5-8 pm



TPS

Saturday 21 September
9 am - 1pm



BOHUNT
WOKINGHAM

Thursday 3 October
5-8 pm



BOHUNT
WORTHING

Thursday 26 September
5.30-8 pm

For more information and booking visit our school websites.

2015 - 2025 = A decade of BET!



**We can't wait to celebrate
with you!**





ENJOY RESPECT ACHIEVE

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