

MARCH 2023

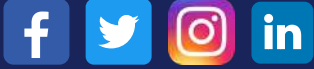
ISSUE 030

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Busy is best, as Neurodiversity Celebration Week has lived comfortably alongside British Science Week. My assembly on Monday was focused on neurodiversity, as Vinehall celebrated the wealth of differences that enrich our school community and the wider world. The children have decorated the school with posters identifying famous and influential people who live, or lived, with autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia or ADHD.

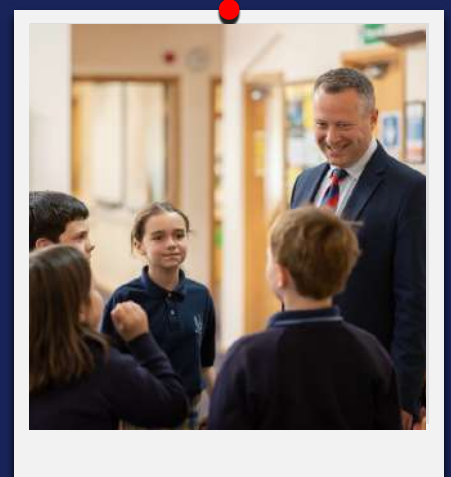
As every parent will agree, all children are unique, and the world would be poorer and life less colourful if we were all the same.

The renowned mental health mentor, Jamie Crabb, summed it up beautifully when he said 'Neurodiversity reflects that we all have a unique orientation into the world, whilst being interconnected. There's huge potential for learning and growth in leaning into each unique relationship we have.'

Finding a way to cater for all is central to the joys of teaching and something at which Vinehall excels. Our children are kind, empathetic and tolerant, they embrace difference and shun any form of discrimination. The perfect metaphor for learning to co-exist, was this week's school horticultural project to clear the woods to enable the bluebells to flourish. No-one wanted to banish the prickly brambles because we all benefit from their delicious blackberries; we simply moved them aside to allow the bluebells a chance to thrive also.



Jeff Davis



CONGRATULATIONS

Arlo's double success

Congratulations to Arlo K who entered the Hastings Music Festival last week in the class "Higher Piano" for players of any age around grade 5. He was given first place with honours!

100% Success for Vinehall Debating Teams

Imagine being given just 72 hours to prepare, learn and deliver a speech on a highly contentious topic to 56 other students from seven different countries across the globe and you will begin to appreciate the size of the challenge presented to the four members of the Vinehall Debating Team on Thursday. At 8.15am, scarcely having had time to wake up and grab a bowl of cereal, our intrepid debaters logged in to meet and greet their friends from other Repton Schools in Cairo, Malaysia, Abu Dhabi and China to name but a few.



After a brief welcoming message from Daniel Lewis, Chairman of Repton International, and the outlining of some important rules and regulations concerning the protocol and etiquette of a formal debate, the teams were announced, battle lines drawn and our courageous verbal armies launched into the fray. What followed were debates of which Messrs Sunak and Starmer would be advised to take note. At times passionate and challenging yet always tolerant and respectful, these were debates in their truest form. Added to this, the pupils' facility with the online aspect of the debates was impressive as they coolly flicked from script to screen without hesitation or fuss as if to the manner born.

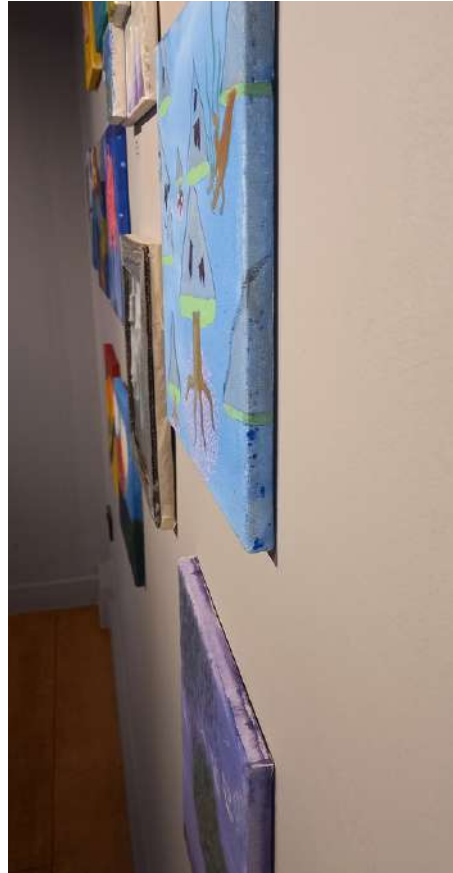
Many congratulations to Patrick, Arlo, Isla M and Elizabeth O for their outstanding performances on behalf of Vinehall School who were all winners of their debates.

CONGRATULATIONS

Debating Team Success



UPCOMING EVENTS



Vinehall Art Exhibition at The blackShed Gallery, Robertsbridge

Friday 17th March to Wednesday 23rd March. FREE entry

Vinehall Prep pupils are having their own exhibition of Art at **The blackShed Gallery** in Robertsbridge.

Over 40 pupils have created works on the theme of 'Land, Sea and Sky'.

The Gallery is holding a private viewing with canapes and fizz for Vinehall Families on Saturday 18th March from 4pm-6pm. All welcome.

The Exhibition is open to the public and is a hugely exciting initiative for our artistic pupils. Please do support them if you can.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY 20TH MARCH

Pre-Prep Easter Egg Competition
Year 3&4 Dress Rehearsal to the School
Year 1&2 Gym Display



TUESDAY 21ST MARCH

Year 1 Trip to Port Lympne
Ashton House Cake Sale
5.30pm Drinks in the Front Hall with Dan Lewis, Chair of Governors.
7.00pm 'Tam Lin' – Year 3&4 Musical. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH

2.30pm Reception Fairytale Garden Tea Party
Boys' Hockey v Skippers Hill
Girls' Netball v Skippers Hill
Girls' Football v Skippers Hill



THURSDAY 23RD MARCH

General Knowledge Quiz
House Winners' Treat



FRIDAY 24TH MARCH

Last Day of Term – 12.30pm for Prep and Pre-Prep
Easter activities

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH

Ski Trip depart



FOCUS OF THE WEEK



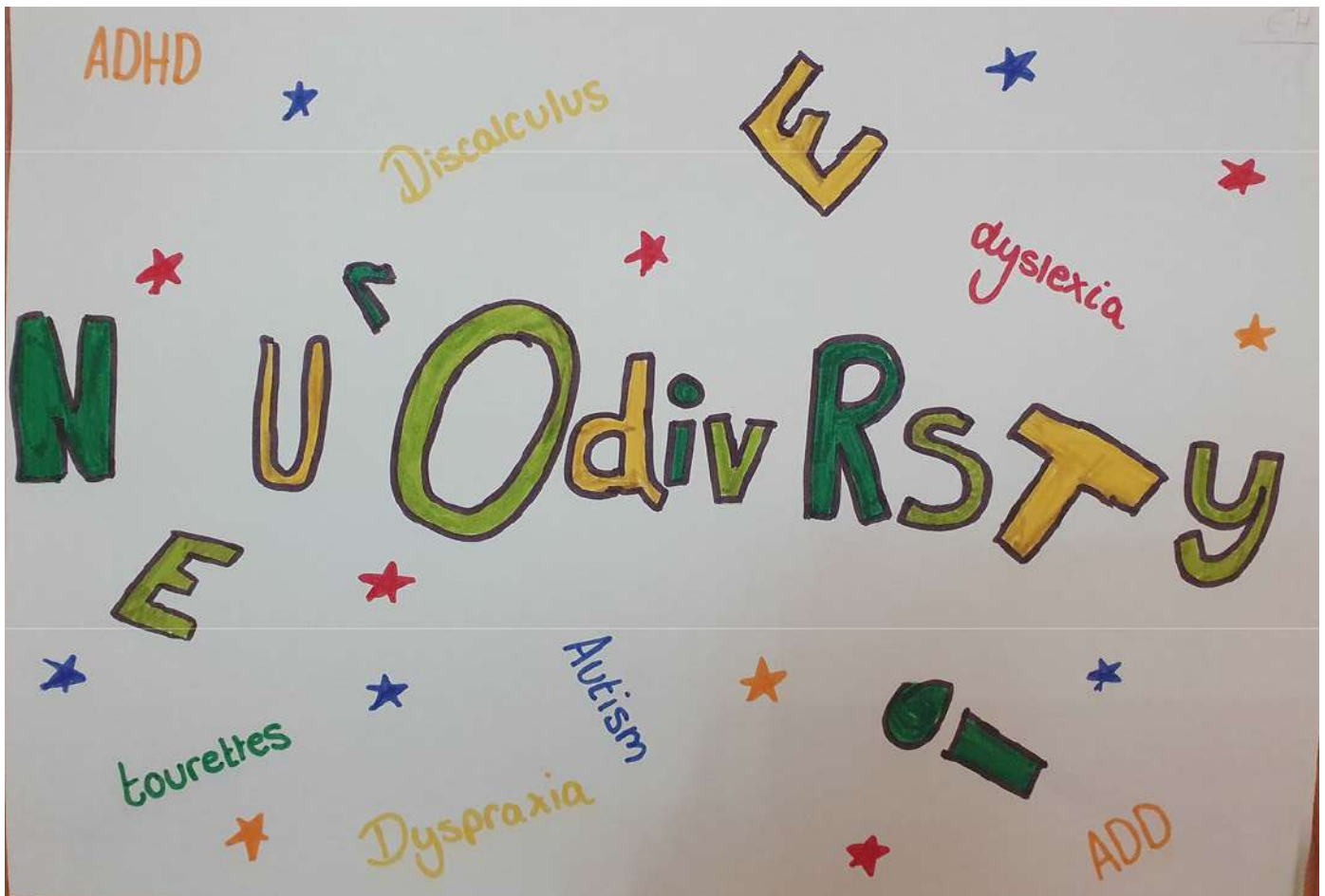
Neurodiversity Celebration Week, 13-19 March 2023

At Vinehall, we observed Neurodiversity Celebration Week in Pre-Prep and Prep. Over 2,400 schools across the world were taking part. Joff led us in an assembly on the Monday morning to explain what neurodiversity is. Neurodiversity is based on the idea that everyone has a differently-wired brain and their own unique way of thinking and experiencing the world. Differences in the way our brains are wired mean we may find some things challenging and some things relatively easy. We each have our own strengths and challenges. We were reminded that it is important to be aware of and respect our differences.

We talked about the labels that some of these differences have been given. These include autism, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Tourette's Syndrome. We were reminded that, whilst these conditions can bring plenty of challenges, such as difficulties with concentration, reading, spelling and how we communicate with each other, they can also bring very positive attributes, such as creativity, thinking outside-the-box and determination.



FOCUS OF THE WEEK



Through posters put up around the school, we were reminded of well-known neurodivergent people who have made amazing contributions to the world. These included Victoria Beckham who has dyslexia, Daniel Radcliffe who has dyspraxia, Simone Biles who has ADHD and Chris Packham and Elon Musk who have autism.

Many of these people have talked about their struggles at school, which is not always the easiest environment for neurodivergence, but how life has opened up wonderful opportunities for them since then and enabled them to pursue their interests and talents. Indeed, they attribute their success to their unique way of thinking and perceiving the world. It made us realise just how important it is to be kind and tolerant of others at school, to recognise hard work, resilience and determination, to enable ALL pupils to showcase their unique strengths and talents.

We were reminded that we can make someone else's day by being understanding and kind.

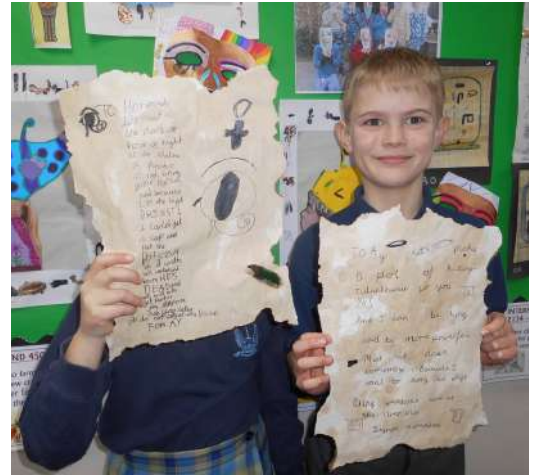
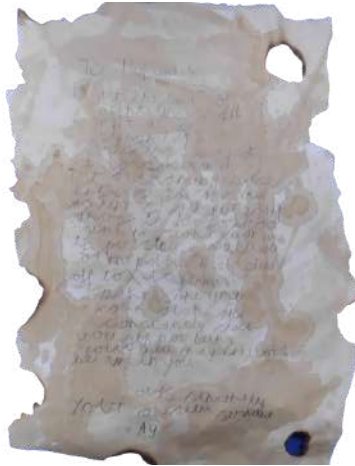
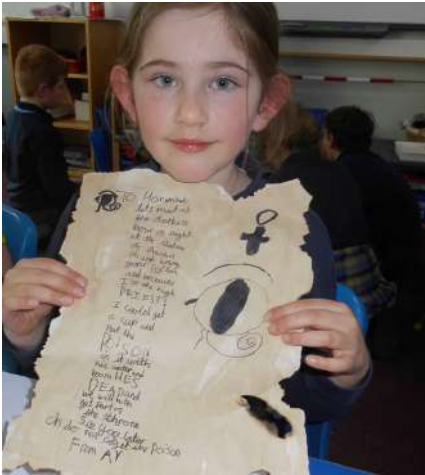


ACADEMIC

YEAR 3

Ancient Crime Suspects!

3E have been writing in role as Horemheb or Ay, suspects plotting to get Tutankhamun off the throne! A few had some rather alarming plans!



Appreciating others

In Life Skills 3E made appreciation banners, choosing one family member, one friend and one person they have never met but whom they admire. They were very reflective, like Ollie Owl.



ACADEMIC

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK – YEAR 2 – YEAR 8



As part of our British Science Week celebration, Years 2 to 8 were given the task of creating a marble run using card and masking tape.

Working in House teams, the Juniors got the afternoon started, and they were joined by the Year 2s as part of the process of preparing them for joining the Prep School from September.

After tea, it was the turn of the Seniors, also working in House teams. The children worked together amazingly well, and there was a wonderful buzz of industriousness in the Old Gym.

Prizes were awarded for the longest marble run, for creativity and for teams working together and demonstrating the dispositions (being inquisitive, collaborative, resilient, reflective or courageous.)



BOARDING



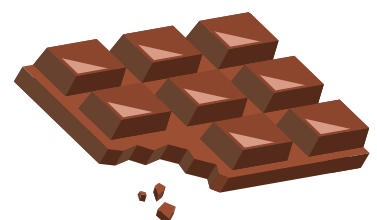
What an amazing and busy weekend we had in boarding.

On Friday night we had a taster session for all the Year 4 boarders. We welcomed Year 4 and their parents to visit the boarding house and then some of the children stayed the night. Thank you to all who came, it was lovely to see you.

On Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast, we headed off to London on the train. The weather was gorgeous, and we had an amazing day at the Tower of London. London was incredibly busy, but we made our way over London Bridge and into the dungeons passing by portraits of famous 'guests'.

We saw some of the crown jewels and marvelled at the fact that they were real and right in front of us. We saw armour for horses and ammunition through the ages.

We had a lazy evening watching a movie. Then on Sunday, after a slow start, we went to the chapel service where Mr Powis spoke about the positivity of spring. After lunch we went to Tunbridge Wells to Temper chocolate. We had an amazing afternoon making moulds and designs in chocolate before we returned home to get ready for the week ahead.



LITTLE VINES NURSERY



Science Week Bee curious

The Little Vines children were full of curious questions as we learnt all about how honey is made. Eva and Oscar told us about the bees in their garden and we tasted their honey which was absolutely delicious.

We made a bee hive from canes and plant pots and found a sunny location to place it in; fingers crossed the bees will make a home in it.

We discovered that bees also make wax and used the wax to make soap. The children learnt about solids and liquids, using new scientific language.



LITTLE VINES NURSERY

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Bee Curious Science Day

Kindergarten was buzzing with excitement as we immersed ourselves in the 'Bee Curious' science day.

During the morning, we went on a bee hunt and, although we didn't spot any bees we found some super places where we thought they might like to live.

Then in the afternoon, we learnt that bees make wax and honey. We all enjoyed using honey to make honey cakes and using wax to make candles. Throughout the day the children were great scientists; they observed, identified, asked and answered questions and explored the world around them.





Pre-Prep Bee Curious Science Morning

For Science week Pre-Prep decided to celebrate Bees and look at their role in our world. The morning started with an assembly and encouraged the children to think about what bees produce and how they help to support other areas such as growing crops. After assembly the children were split into three groups of mixed age groups.

The first activity consisted of using the bees' honey to make flapjacks. The children had to measure their ingredients and follow the recipe to create their delicious treats. Many could talk about how the bees collect pollen and nectar to take back to the hive. The flapjacks proved to be the perfect snack for play time!

The children then took part in candle and soap-making to explore changes of state. Soap-making consisted of melting natural bees wax and goat milk soap base together; they then added their favourite essential oil. Once melted it was poured into the mould and pressed together before it cooled and hardened. The candle-making followed a similar start process of melting the bees wax and soy wax together. The children found the change of colour amazing and noted that it looked like runny honey. Their sense of smell was put to the test before they chose the essential oil to put in the base of the mould. Once melted the liquid wax was then poured into the mould and a wick added. In both groups the children spotted how we turned solids into liquids and that these changes were reversible.



SPORT

This week the senior girls played their last football matches of the term against Saint Ronan's. In three very evenly-contested games, the girls got stuck in, were far more physical than they have been in recent weeks and worked hard on and off the ball. Jon Newman was very pleased with how they conducted themselves on and off the pitch.

The Colts ABC teams can also be very pleased with their footballing efforts at Bede's. Louise Barrett and Steph Robinson were extremely happy with the effort shown, and both mentioned the progress the group have made over the few shorts weeks they have been playing. The U8/9 girls concluded their fixtures for the term with a triangular against Skippers Hill and Claremont on Thursday afternoon, with plenty of game time, tackles and goals being scored.

The 1st & 2nd team boys played two very evenly-contested games of hockey on Wednesday. Although the 1st team lost, those who were present witnessed an exciting end to end game of hockey. The 2nds can be very proud of their win and it shows that, with continued effort in training, the results will come. The Colts A & B travelled to Dulwich for a triangular with Marlborough House. Zac Atwood was very happy with their performances, especially as the teams were changed due to a group of U10 boys playing in the Radnor 5s tournament. The U10s did very well on Wednesday; up against some tough opposition, they managed to go undefeated all afternoon. The U8/U9 boys concluded their hockey season with five enjoyable matches against MHS on the astro.



Pre-Prep

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery

All of Nursery for collaborating like Billy Bee during science week

Reception

Louis

Kindergarten

Evie

Arlo

Year 1

Millie

Henry SC

Year 2

Ned

Evie



Please note that the swimming pool is closed next week while essential maintenance is carried out. It does mean that all swim squad sessions are cancelled. Timetabled swimming sessions will take place, with Mrs Walker leading those sessions in the sports hall.