

JULY 2023

ISSUE 41

VINELINES

YOUR WEEKLY VINEHALL NEWSLETTER



Vinehall
A REPTON SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday with your families. This has been a year to celebrate, and the community can look back with great pride on all we have achieved for the children.

All I ask of them over the coming months is to participate in the Headmaster's Summer Challenge - this year being the 'We Are Vinehall' T-Shirt Competition. I look forward to seeing your photos pouring in.

'WE ARE VINEHALL' T-SHIRT COMPETITION



Prizes for photos taken of you wearing your 'We are Vinehall' T-shirts at one or more of the following locations!



email your photos during the summer holidays to
wearevinehall@vinehallschool.com

Jeff Davis



Thank you so much to this year's departing Year 8s and their parents who have donated this fabulous bench. Personalised tiles, decorated by each child, will adorn the backrest and it will serve as a reminder of this lovely cohort. It was given a grand opening during Sunday's Vines Day.

LEAVERS' SERVICE AND VINES DAY



A triumphant Headmaster's XI at the end of a thrilling T20 game.

Following a delicious lunch in which our Leavers' Families mingled with returning Vines and former staff, the focus turned to the annual cricket match. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces return ... and even better to prove to them that these oldies can still teach them a thing or two!

PRIZE GIVING



We were delighted to welcome Phoebe Horn as our guest speaker for this year's Prize Giving. Having only graduated two years ago from the renowned Drama School, Mountview, Phoebe has already achieved enormous success. With glowing reviews for her part as Margaret in Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the National and an episode of 'Call the Midwife' already under her belt, Phoebe is currently performing in 'The Motive and the Cue' directed by Sam Mendes and starring Johnny Flynn and Tuppence Middleton.



She was nominated for this year's Ian Charleson Best Newcomer Award; previous nominees have gone on to great things in film, television and theatre – Tom Hollander, Dominic West, Toby Stevens and Rupert Penry-Jones to name but a few.

As an enormous favour to her old drama teacher, Mary Alderson, Phoebe took a rushed trip to Vinehall to inspire all our Year 8s with what it takes to follow your dreams, before she rushed back to be on stage by at 7.30pm at the National.



After speeches from Daniel Lewis, Chair of Governors, and Joff Powis, Phoebe awarded prizes to children across the Prep School and we celebrated our departing Year 8s. This special occasion was followed by bubbles on the front lawn. What a lovely start to the Summer holidays.



SHREK, THE MUSICAL



On Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July the Chaplin Theatre was transported to the wonderful fairytale world of 'Shrek, the Musical' as our amazing Year 8s embraced the challenges of larger-than-life characters, different accents, singing, dancing and making us all laugh. Their efforts were rewarded by the delight of three packed audiences.

Charlie P stole the show as the most tremendous Shrek; his Scottish drawl was hilarious and his stage presence admirable. He also has great comic timing and I hope he will continue to tread the boards at Eastbourne. His hilarious sidekick, Donkey, was a brilliant Rafe P, careering round the stage with unbelievable energy and enthusiasm.

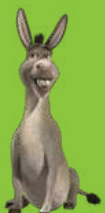
Elizabeth OS and Ines AL shared the role of Princess Fiona, one in her human form and the other as the ogre. Both were utterly charming. Elizabeth H made the perfect odious baddy, Lord Farquaad, hobbling about on her actual knees and dangling her little fake legs with great aplomb. We had some fantastic fairytale characters, most notably Elsie B (Pinocchio), Matilda S (Gingy), India A (Wicked Witch) and Chloe F (Big Bad Wolf). Year 7 were wonderfully versatile as Duloc citizens, guards, woodland creatures and trees, providing a hearty chorus to swell the volume on the songs.





Productions such as this require a huge amount of support from staff and parents and I have been amazed at the creativity and commitment. Incredible costumes, giant props, set painting, crowd control, choreography, direction and even a spectacular dragon. I am so grateful to them all but should give a special mention to Jonny Ball, Sarah Clarke, Sandra Huggett and, of course, the brilliant Kate Hunt, my right-hand superstar.

When we announced we were doing 'Shrek' there was some dissension in the Year 8 ranks, but I think they came to love the whacky story, great songs and brilliant characters and I hope they have had a theatrical ball. They have certainly worked very hard to pull it all together in such a short time and with so few rehearsals during their packed post-CE programme. I am very proud of them all and hope they will take a love of performance with them to senior school and beyond. I wish them great happiness and success.

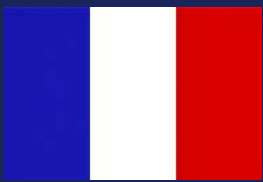








A selection of images from the performance to the school on Tuesday morning. A link to all the photos and the film will be sent to Year 7 & 8 in due course.



Year 7 Visit to Normandy

La Belle France



What a wonderful experience we had in France with Year 7 – a week full of French language, good food, fascinating visits, historical sites, friendship, fun and making memories.

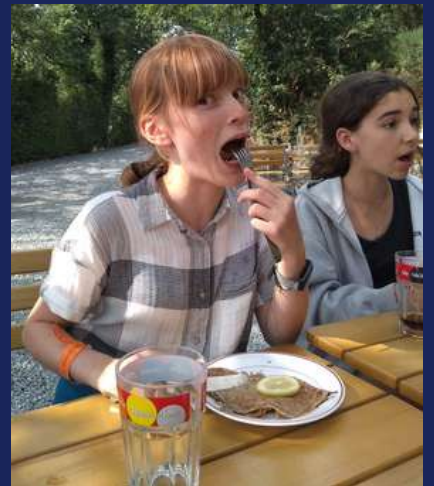
Early on Monday we headed off to Newhaven for the ferry to Dieppe. Our crossing was smooth, and the children were excited to wave goodbye to the Seven Sisters, as they kept a look out for the white cliffs of Normandy. En route to our destination of Soignolles, we visited the pretty harbour of Honfleur where we all enjoyed a ride on the carousel. Our accommodation was a converted farm, with peaceful surroundings and comfortable rooms. Meals were delicious, homemade from local ingredients and our hosts made us very welcome.





Each day our Tour Director Caroline took us to interesting places and explained things clearly in French. It was super to see the children's confidence and comprehension develop during the stay. We shopped in the market at Villedieu-les-Poëles, and a supermarket near Bayeux. We visited Mont St Michel, a Unesco World Heritage site, celebrating its millennium this year. The crêperie at the beauty spot Les Roches de Ham was a treat on the way back, but difficult decisions had to be made over which crêpe topping to choose. I recommend the Norman beurre salé!

Many of our visits were to historic sites connected to the Norman Conquest of 1066 or the D-day landings in 1944. This links with our Humanities curriculum and really brought Year 7 History to life. We went to British and American war cemeteries, the landing beaches Gold and Omaha, to the Pegasus Bridge museum, the Bayeux Tapestry, Bayeux cathedral, the château de Caen, and Dives-sur-mer, the departure port for William the Conqueror's fleet before the Battle of Hastings.





For many of us, one of the most enjoyable visits was to La Saffrie, a goat farm where they produce milk, chocolate, soap and cheese. Everyone loved stroking the goats, and Henry learnt to milk one. The farmer spoke only in French and I was very proud when he remarked on the strong level of French shown by the Vinehall pupils. After the farm came the highlight for the adventurous members of the party; a ride on the Normandie Luge, a sort of roller coaster under an impressive viaduct. Even those who felt nervous were encouraged to face their fears and have a go. Every child ran straight back around for the rest of their rides and had an amazing time whizzing down the track.

Many thanks to Becky Prior and Marcus Peters who accompanied this memorable week. We had a fantastic time and I hope your children will tell you all about it - en français!.



Madame Acorn Clayton



Year 6 Youlbury Trip



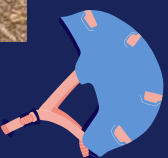
After the long journey to Youlbury, Year 6 went straight off in their groups to start their activities programme for the afternoon. Over the next few days they were faced with many team and personal challenges to push them to the limit. Many mastered their fear of heights by abseiling, climbing, zip-lining or taking on the leap of faith. There was a real mix of activities, from fire-lighting, tomahawk throwing, 3G swing and crate stacking.

Each evening, as we assembled back at base, stories were shared of the activities and the fun they had. Our evenings were busy with two organised events: one evening was team games and the other campfire. We also had our very own festival - Vinebury and the children danced the night away. We rocked out some air guitar to some classics and Glastonbury had nothing on us.

The children were happy campers; they had a great time and laughed a lot (especially about a squirrel invading a tent) but by the end of the trip they were tired and ready to go home to their own beds (as were the staff). They were good company, represented Vinehall very well and have made lasting memories.







End of Term Successes

This year's Charity Fair was a fabulous success thanks to some amazing work by Year 8 in thinking up brilliantly inventive games and activities for everyone to enjoy. From a disco 'Just Dance' party to 'Toss the Wellie', 'Shoot the Teacher' and a 'Corn Roll' game (not to mention a Coconut Shy and Water Balloons) there was something exciting for every age group to get stuck into.



Year 8 Charity Fair

Although it was overseen magnificently by Matt McKinnon and Paul Borrows, the Years 8s took on the lion's share of the preparation: setting up and dismantling their own stalls, creating posters and publicity material and finally clearing everything away at the end. With a budget of £15 per group, the profits will be shared amongst the four House Charities, so the Fair was an out-an-out winner!



Congratulations to our talented musicians who all passed this term's Associated Board Exams with merits or distinctions.

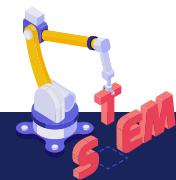
Successes

Year 3 got their first chance to tackle the National Maths Challenges and, with the Year 4s, made brilliant attempts at a variety of different Maths problems, all showing fantastic perseverance. Well done to all the children and special congratulations to George B and Alexandra C for their Gold certificates.



Years 7 & 8 had their Junior Maths challenge earlier in the year and six pupils qualified for the Junior Kangaroo where the challenges get increasingly more complex. Well done to them all for getting onto the second round and a special congratulations to Patrick L and Ella F for receiving Merits (the highest certificate possible) in this second round.





YEAR 5 SUCCESS IN STEM

Congratulations to pupils in Year 5 who have achieved their Superstar CREST Award in STEM this year, through completing ten STEM challenges in their CREST Award Passports.

The pupils each received a certificate and badge from the British Science Association.



YEAR 8 COLOUR RUN



BEFORE

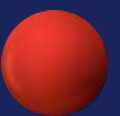
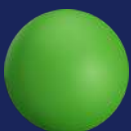
AFTER



The Great House Race



The Great House Race was hotly contested, with the leading House changing throughout. In the end, Ruston stormed ahead in the final lap of the running track.







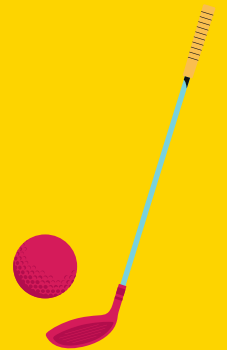
Ashton House Charity Event

Ashton held four fun water events on Monday break time, including the towel toss with water balloons, passing water backwards in cups, sticking pencils through a plastic bag filled with water and a water fight on the sunken fence.



Saxton House Winners' Outing

Congratulations to members of Saxton House (and individuals from other other houses) who earned the most points for their House this term and enjoyed a trip to Hastings to play crazy golf and eat the biggest ice-creams in the world!



YEAR 3 & 4 ACTIVITIES

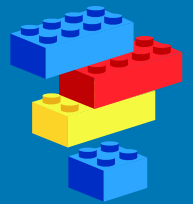


The Tour de Vinehall

Oh we do like to be beside the seaside



YEAR 3 & 4 ACTIVITIES



A wonderful day at Legoland



What a Week!

LITTLE VINES



What an amazing year for all our Little Vines children! Their journey of progression and development has been quite amazing and we are so proud of each and everyone of them!

We were lucky enough that the sun shone for us to share a hotdog picnic and explore our wonderful school grounds during our last week of term; what fun we had playing and what a wonderful opportunity for Nursery and Kindergarten to celebrate their end of year together.

The Little Vines Team would like to wish you all a fun-filled summer holiday.



BOARDING



We finally arrived at the last weekend of the year, and it was time to celebrate all that we have done.

On Saturday morning there was a rehearsal for the Year 7&8s and the Year 6s started the arduous task of packing (or at least trying to cram a year's worth of belongings into one suitcase.)

On Saturday evening we had the boarders end of term BBQ and an inflatable pillow bash. It was great fun for children and adults alike. The boarders also made friendship bracelets which surpassed any expectations I had; there were some beautiful creations, a mix of colour and patterns and total dedication to the task at hand.

On Sunday we went to the Leavers' Service and lunch and then spent the afternoon lazily watching the cricket match.

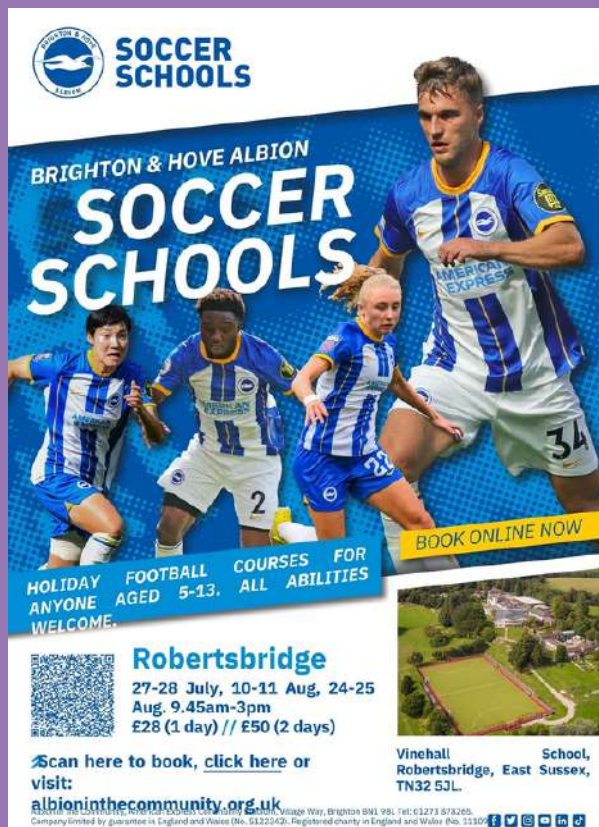
We will be saying goodbye to Sophia McGill and Brody Masnik at the end of term. I would like to thank them both for their hard work and dedication over the last six months and wish them well on their next adventure.

I would like to say thank you to all the boarders. Like any family, they have made me laugh ... and nearly cry. They have tested my patience and made me very proud. They have been wonderful, and I will miss each and every one of them.

Good luck to you all.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION
SOCCER SCHOOLS

HOLIDAY ANYONE WELCOME. FOOTBALL COURSES FOR AGED 5-13. ALL ABILITIES.

Robertsbridge
27-28 July, 10-11 Aug, 24-25
Aug. 9.45am-3pm
£28 (1 day) // £50 (2 days)

BOOK ONLINE NOW

Scan here to book, [click here](#) or visit: [albioninthecommunity.org.uk](#)

Albion in the Community is a registered charity (No. 1131048) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No. 01222422). Registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1131048).

Vinehall School, Robertsbridge, East Sussex, TN32 5JL.

The Soccer School is open to all children aged 5-13. Places are limited and early booking is advised.



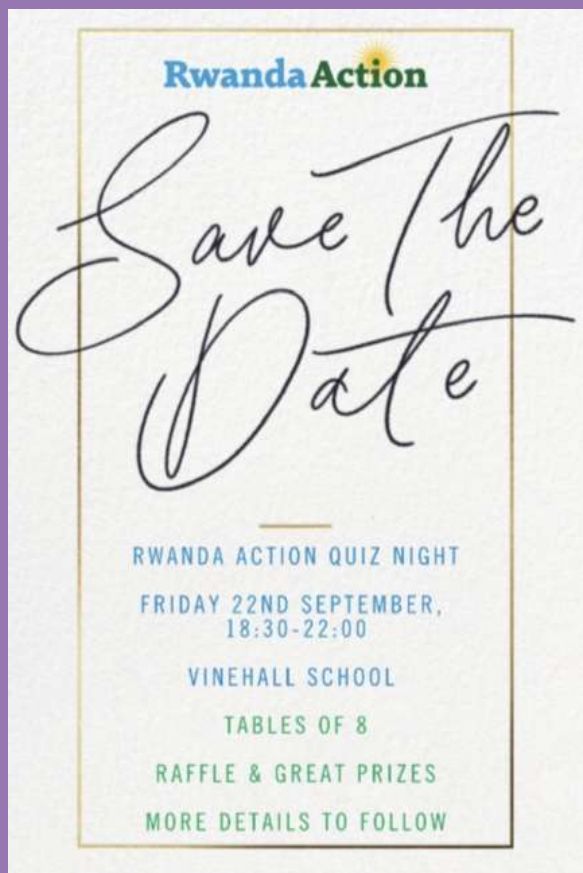
Please do check the school meals section of the website. Accent have some fun cooking activities for over the summer. July's theme is purple and there are some great recipes to try.



Eat the Rainbow

Purple
Is for July

Purple / dark blue foods can help improve your memory!



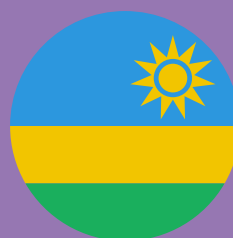
RwandaAction

Save The Date

RWANDA ACTION QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER,
18:30-22:00

VINEHALL SCHOOL

TABLES OF 8
RAFFLE & GREAT PRIZES
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Please do put this quiz night in your diaries. Vinehall has such a long-standing and important tradition of supporting this charity.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

Annabel B – Year 2

William C – Year 2

Lucia B – Year 6

Aria B – Pre-Nursery

Arthur P – Year 4



Pre-Prep ★★

STARS OF THE WEEK

Every single Pre-Prep child is a star this and every week!

Have a wonderful summer holiday.

