



## Farewell from the Principal

As we come to the end of the academic year, there has at last been an air of pre-Covid normality. Students have all completed their external exams and all of the staff at the College have been impressed by their focus and resilience at the end of a year that has at times been blighted by the pandemic.

The Leavers' Ball was an opportunity to celebrate the end of the year, socially. It was a lovely evening and reflected the strong community feeling at Padworth. It was followed by a more formal celebration in Speech Day. The Speech Day message for our students from both myself and Stuart Smith (Chief Executive of NCUK) was to develop a passion within your studies and your future endeavours will be rewarded.

As I come to the end of my tenure at Padworth, I can reflect on the commitment and genuine desire by all of the staff to support the students to learn, and grow into free thinking individuals who will make a valuable contribution to the world. My very best wishes to you all and my thanks for your continuing support of the College.

Lorraine Atkins, Principal



Speech Day - 28 May 2022



On Saturday 28 May, at the start of the Half Term break, the College community gathered for the annual Speech Day celebration.

Students and staff were joined by parents, guardians and agents. We were delighted to welcome Stuart Smith, Chief Executive of NCUK to the College for the first time. Stuart was our Guest Speaker and shared some words of wisdom about what to expect as students look ahead to starting higher education in the Autumn.

Awards and prizes were awarded across a range of categories, including academic, sports and the Biology Olympiad. Other awards and prizes were presented to students who have made an outstanding contribution to College life. These included the Fison Award (named after the College's founder, Peter Fison), the Principal's Award and the Padworth Community Award.

The ceremony ended with a poem from David Newby, Teacher of Science and Mathematics, suitably titled 'Thoughts About the Future' (below).

### 'Thoughts about the Future'

Your future lies before you  
Like a sheet of driven snow,  
So be careful how you tread  
For every step will show.

If, on life's uncertain path  
You happen to lose the way,  
Stop, rest and think awhile  
Upon the wintry day,

Look back, and see the way you've come  
We can't change what's past.  
But look and learn from what's done  
For experience is made to last.

Remember all the people  
You have met in life so far,  
What they said and what they did  
Have made you what you are.

Look ahead to see the path  
You think you ought to take,  
Life's journey does have many choices  
Which ones will you make?

### Leavers' Ball

On the evening of Friday 27 May, the College community got together for the annual Leavers' Ball. Given the restrictions associated with the global pandemic which had impacted the College's events calendar over the past couple of years, there was plenty of reasons to celebrate!

The Leavers' Ball was hosted at the College, with a marquee overlooking the beautiful West Berkshire countryside. In addition to the traditional dinner and dancing, students and



staff were able to enjoy a variety of fun activities, including a bucking bronco, photo booth and other games. A great evening all round.



## Students Celebrate University Offers

This year, we are pleased to announce that our students are, yet again, celebrating an outstanding range of offers from top universities.

Upholding our reputation for placing students into leading universities, 55% of our UK university offers are for the 24 institutions that currently make up the prestigious Russell Group of universities. Highlights include one offer for Imperial College, 4 offers for University of Birmingham, 4 offers for University of Sheffield, 3 offers for University of Southampton and 2 offers for University of Bristol, to name just a few.

Students secured offers across a broad range of subjects, including Business and

Management (25 offers), Law (16), Psychology (12), Biomedical Science (8), Engineering (7) and Computer Science (7). Offers included Cancer Biology and Immunology (Bristol), Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence (Sheffield) and Biological Sciences (Imperial), reflecting the wide range of career interests of the Year 13 cohort.

All but one of the students enrolled on the NCUK International Foundation Year programme, secured an offer from an NCUK Partner University, including Birmingham, Exeter and Leeds.

Speaking about the excellent range of offers achieved by our students this year, Lorraine Atkins, Principal stated:

“I am immensely proud of the efforts of the Padworth College students in gaining so many impressive offers from top universities in the UK. It is testimony to their academic standard and hard work, together with the high quality tuition and careers guidance given by our staff under the leadership of Rebecca Clyde, Deputy Principal.”

“I am delighted that both the career base (in terms of degree subjects) are widening and that students are working hard to match their desires and goals to the most appropriate university and course for them. Offers have been received from 12 highly reputable Russell Group institutions, as well as a number of other leading universities in their field, including Bath, Loughborough and Reading. Well done to all involved in this life changing process.”

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## GCSE and A Level Art Show

In the last week of the Summer Term, Padworth students and staff enjoyed viewing the end of year A level and GCSE Art Show, admiring the students work and afterwards enjoying a delicious cream tea of scones and strawberries on the lawn.





## STEM Activities

Whilst the I/GCSE, A Level and NCUK examinations have understandably been 'front of mind' for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, other Year Groups have had a busy term of learning, both inside and outside the classroom. In **STEM**, highlights included:

- Trip to the Royal Observatory Greenwich, with an interactive study session calculating the age of the universe as well as a planetarium show studying our solar system and its place in the Milky Way galaxy.
- Year 12 Physics attending a webinar held in conjunction with Cambridge University Lecturers, teaching higher learning thinking skills and offering a session on how to complete an application to Cambridge University.
- Year 13 Physics attending a webinar session by Cambridge University lecturers teaching higher thinking skills to solve difficult questions.

## Academic Highlights - English

Meanwhile, in English, the Summer Term always becomes a concentrated power house of revision and review. Facing exams tends to focus the mind and heart! Year 11 went into intensive training and preparation for the English Language IGCSE. This involved studying for two exam papers: one that was two hours, fifteen minutes long and the other, one and a half hours! Timed essays, class discussion, YouTube clips and PowerPoint presentations placed the students in prime position to shine and do their very best. Year 10 also had end of year exams, testing them on their knowledge of poetry and the Pulitzer prize winning novel, To Kill A Mockingbird. Looking back over the term, and indeed the year, Debs Burnham, Teacher of English commented: "I am very proud of our students and how well they have done during such challenging times."



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