



Princethorpe  
College

# THE Tower REVIEW

A CELEBRATION OF THE  
2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR



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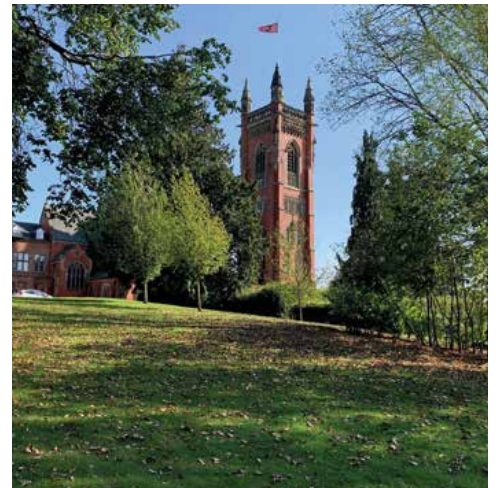


# A year in the life of Princethorpe College

**Welcome to The Tower Review and a celebration of the 2022/23 school year.**

Charting the school year in words and pictures this year's souvenir edition celebrates the community and ethos that together make Princethorpe such a very special place. 2022/23 was another incredible year full of wonderful and remarkable moments and plenty of achievements and successes too. So much happens here, day in day out, it is hard to capture it all. We hope you enjoy reading this year's edition and remembering, just as much as we've enjoyed putting it all together.









# Message from the Headmaster

2022/23 was an incredible school year for all, and especially for me.

As we came to the end of the Trinity Term I can genuinely say that I felt truly a part of the Princethorpe family, although with just a matter of months under my belt I know it will take a few more terms before I will be fully settled.

There is so much that goes on here at school each and every day, and you will all have your own highlights, but here are some of the events, successes, stories and achievements that stood out for me over the course of the year.

## Outdoor Activities

Coming from a city, it was the outdoor events that really stood out for me. The Two-Day Equestrian Event, which saw 200 riders taking on all manners of jumps and obstacles showed the College in its very best light. Then the 161 pupils who completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expeditions, the 36 Old Princethorpians attending Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Awards, and a further 54 Year 8 pupils completing their John Muir award. I spent one night with the Bronze groups on their training exercise; it rained heavily and I have experienced warmer nights, but the commitment and enthusiasm of the pupils made it all worthwhile. It is an excellent qualification and under the guidance of Mr Bower, we do it very well.

## Performing Arts

The performing and creative arts had a very impressive year. Our Spring Concert was a real celebration of diverse music and talents, with our Sixth Form Music Performance BTEC group deserving special mention for all their contributions. In June our Sports Hall was transformed into an art gallery with the Summer Art, Photography and Design Show. The talent on display was humbling and it is a real testament to the hard work of both the pupils and their teachers. I make no apologies for my stereotypical choice of the mini-BBQ project as a favourite. However, it would be unfair to choose any winners as the standard was so high and every pupil deserves acknowledgement.

## Sporting Programme

On the sporting front, Princethorpe continued to excel. We had a wonderful visit from our "hockey family" in Holland. Grace McCollin won gold in the hurdles at English Schools with André Onyekwe placing third in the high jump – Princethorpe was responsible for half of Warwickshire's medals. This followed Sports Day which was once again a massive success (being in the winning House, More, made my day).

Add to this 130 pupils travelling to South Africa over the summer, two new Netball courts, the Piranhas Staff Cricket, our U14 Boys Hockey team reaching the national finals, our Eventing team winning at ISA, and our U13 Girls' Cricket team winning the Nottingham Festival, and it is clear we were doing our pupils more than justice in ensuring participation and excellence in equal measure.

## Charitable Work

"Ours is a Spirit of Family" and part of that family is reaching out to those who are less fortunate or who may need our support and help. The Princethorpe community once again stepped up to make a difference. The 24/7 walk was hard, but it felt very rewarding crossing the line in the end. Our pupils fundraising at the PTA Summer Fête and running House Charity Days are small acts that changes lives. We raised almost £14,000 this year which is extraordinary. Thank you to every pupil and parent who contributed, and may we long continue to be generous in how we support others.

## House Activities

The year would not be complete without mentioning House Activities and in particular House Activities Day which this year paid tribute to the one and only, David Attenborough. It was the last one organised by Ms Newborough as House Activities Co-ordinator and she didn't disappoint. Water purifying, roller disco, task master, capture the flag, and water races were some of the activities featured and as usual, our pupils enjoyed every moment.

## Campus Development

Of course, the year was dominated by the construction of the new Science Centre which was completed over the summer holidays ready for the new academic year. The new facilities provide an exceptional learning environment and the relocation of Science has created fantastic opportunities within the main school, to repurpose and refit teaching areas so much so that every pupil at Princethorpe has felt the impact.

## Results Days

The culmination of the academic year is of course August when the A-level and GCSE results are published. We strive hard to ensure each member of the College's community makes the most of their talents. When pupils leave Princethorpe they do so with so much more than their examination certificates, but we do take great pride in trying to ensure that all our pupils achieve the very best possible academic results and we were of course delighted with the exceptionally high number of top grades received this year.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank pupils, parents, staff and trustees for all their hard work and support during the year.

2022/23 was a remarkable year and I hope you enjoy reliving it with the help of *The Tower Review*.

Grove du Toit  
Headmaster

# Michaelmas News

01

## Princethorpe remembered Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On Friday 9 September, the College community gathered together on the school playground to remember Queen Elizabeth II. Headmaster, Ed Hester, addressed the whole school community, he spoke movingly about the Queen's early years as a child, her ascension to the throne and her many years of unstinting dedication to her country.

The Heads of School, Freya Mills and Pratheesh Prabakaran, led the school in prayers before the school observed a one-minute silence. At the top of the Tower, the Union Flag flew at half-mast as a sign of respect.



03

## Student success in the Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge

Designed to stretch and challenge students in Chemistry, the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge takes students significantly beyond the syllabus and encourages them to think about Science in the way they would at university.

In the summer, four Lower Sixth students Hannah Lawrence, Freya Mills, William Gibson-Sexton, and Joshua Apaya took part in the Cambridge Chemistry challenge. At the start of term all four were awarded certificates, with Freya Mills and William Gibson-Sexton receiving Copper awards.



02

## Dan shortlisted for prestigious National School Design Prize

Recent Upper Sixth leaver, Dan Hatfield, from the Class of 2022, was shortlisted for The Furniture Makers' Company's School Design Prize. His Koko-Accent chair went on show at the Young Furniture Makers' Exhibition in London in October.

His design incorporated all the key features of Scandinavian design, minimalism, clean lines and a combination of function and beauty and was a well-crafted piece of furniture incorporating many intricate joinery processes. It was a fantastic achievement and worthy recognition for the hours of work that had gone into crafting the visually stunning piece.

04

## Pupils and staff enjoy European Day of Languages

In September, the MFL and House teams challenged staff and pupils to take part in fun language-based activities to mark European Day of Languages. Staff were asked to use a foreign language in their lessons, either speaking it or including it in the lesson activity, with pupils acting as judges.

Pupils were challenged to answer a wide range of language-based questions in a trivia quiz in The Limes foyer at break. Every correct answer won a point for their House, it was fast and furious, very competitive and all a lot of fun, while helping to inspire pupils too.

# Michaelmas News

05

## Year 7 introduced to the history of the College

During the first few weeks of term the Religious Studies department introduced Year 7 to the religious history of the College showing them numerous artefacts, from statues to paintings, which are dotted around the school. Pupils spent lessons in the Chapel, learning about the architecture and symbolism of it and 7XM took a trip up the Tower as a treat to round off the topic. The climb to the top was challenging but the view from on high was stunning.



06

## Princethorpe College invaded by Romans

The Roman Legionary invaded Princethorpe College armed with swords and scutums (shields) and ready to do battle. It was Year 7 Roman Day, a day when every pupil in the year enjoys lessons full of tales of blood and gore, as they learn about the professional heavy infantryman of the Roman army.

Lucky class 'volunteers' dressed up in body armour and handled weapons as Gladiatrix Lisa, captivated the new recruits with fascinating facts about all things Roman. Year 7 were treated to lessons in sword skills and battle tactics. They practised marching in the testudo formation adopting the shield wall formation commonly used by the Roman legions in battle.



07

## Princethorpe pupils rise to the Senior Mathematics Challenge

Pupils from Princethorpe College took part in the 2022 UK Mathematics Trust Senior Challenge, a prestigious national problem-solving competition that recognises the best young mathematicians in the country. Princethorpe selected 27 mathematicians from the Lower and Upper Sixth to participate and stretch and test their mathematical skills.

Lower Sixth Former, Joseph Newborough, was awarded a Gold Certificate, and took the award for best performing student in school, while Upper Sixth Former, Edward Sharpe, was awarded a Silver certificate, and took the award for best performing student in the Upper Sixth. Joseph performed so well that he also qualified for the follow-on round, the Senior Kangaroo Challenge.

A further seven Silver and eight Bronze certificates were awarded.



08

## ISA Art Competition recognition

Three talented Upper Sixth Leavers were recognised in the Independent Schools Association Midlands Art Competition.

Art and Photography student, Grace Leigh's atmospheric photograph *Phantom Of The River* took a well-deserved first place in the Key Stage 5 Photography class. The photo was an original unedited work, and the water in the lake was by all reports very cold.

Our Art Scholars performed very well too, Tillie Benford's compendium of drawings, *Last Day Of High School* took first place in the very competitive Key Stage 5 Sketchbook class and Mary Lomas' graphite pencil drawing *Reflections Of The Dark Triad* took second place in the Key Stage 5 Drawing class.

As class winners Grace and Tillie's pieces went forward to the ISA National Art Competition, where Grace was awarded a Highly Commended for her work too.





## Michaelmas News



09

### Princethorpe's Upper Sixth Physicists take on the Senior Physics Challenge

Perhaps the most challenging Physics test available to Sixth Form students, set by the British Physics Olympiad, was tackled by some of Princethorpe's finest physicists with resounding success. The College's Upper Sixth Physicists sat the Year 13 Physics Challenge, based on the curriculum and featuring questions that relate to A-level topics, to stretch their thinking into the application of Physics.

Congratulations went to Ed Sharpe, Oscar Page, Madoc Williams, Josh Apaya, Tom Dodsley, Joe Glover, Tom Knight, Dan Webb, Alex Allison, Alex Hill, Ed Mitchell, Henry Walker, Harry Scott and a very special mention goes to Harry Hewitt who achieved the highest possible accolade of a Merit.



10

### Princethorpe falls silent in Remembrance

On Friday 11 November the College community gathered together outside on a windy school playground to silently reflect on the bravery and the selfless sacrifice made by so many of our country's service men and women.

Deputy Head (Pastoral), Beth Sharpe opened the proceedings with a prayer. Year 7 pupils, Dami Ajagunna, Alvin Wamala, Reuben Allen and Sophie McCormick read out a thought-provoking reading on *Why Do We Wear A Poppy?* before College trumpeter, Year 9, Henry Corbin sounded the melancholic and moving notes of the *Last Post*.

A wreath was hung at the Pupils' Entrance by, Air Cadet and Year 10, Ben Heywood, and former serviceman, Michael Luis, from the Foundation's Estates team.



11

### A Christmas Carol was heart-warming theatrical magic

Over three nights the Drama department captivated audiences with a festive feast for all the family. Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Aileen Cefaliello and Vicky Roberts was performed with verve and passion by our wonderful cast of players.

The story of the cold-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge, ably portrayed by James Maclean, who is visited by three spirits and must listen or be cursed, was theatrical magic and melted even the coldest of hearts. It was an excellent way to begin the countdown to Christmas.



12

### Sixth Formers currently sitting seventh in Global Investment Competition

Six Lower Sixth students took part in the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition. Starting with a virtual client and \$100,000 cash, students were tasked with working collaboratively to meet the client's long-term investment goals. Over the course of ten weeks, the students sought to grow their portfolios and at one point the Princethorpe team were sitting seventh in the league.

The leading Princethorpe team, the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, adopted a cautious strategy and it paid dividends. Jacob Comerford, Guy Dawkins, William Harrison, Adam Ledbrook, Adam Lewis and Oscar Low took part in the competition as part of their Sixth Form enrichment activities, every Friday afternoon, and learnt finance skills that will last them a lifetime.



## Michaelmas News

13

### Sophie secured her place in the FutureChef Regional Final

Year 9 pupil, Sophie Henry, secured her place in the Springboard FutureChef Regional Final after winning the College's super-heat. The competition took place on Wednesday 30 November with school heat winners, Sophie Henry and Year 9, Finlay Ross, demonstrating technical skills and attention to detail. In a hotly contested cook-off Sophie won over the judges with the flavour profile of her dessert.

The Princethorpe competitors had put a lot of time and effort into menu planning and practising. The food they produced was of the highest standard and was beautifully presented. Both pupils clearly have the makings of master chefs.



14

### Pupils take on STEM in action challenge

Two soldiers from the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) outreach team of the British Army visited Princethorpe College in November to deliver a talk and a series of workshops to Year 9 pupils.

The curriculum aligned session started with a talk highlighting the deficit of STEM skilled professionals in the UK. The two interactive workshops gave pupils a chance to test their critical thinking, teamwork, perseverance, and leadership skills to overcome real-world challenges.

Year 9 engaged brilliantly with the activities, showing their competitive sides whilst being creative and working outside of their comfort zones.



15

### Year 9 pupils competed in the GCHQ National Language Competition

In November, keen linguists from Year 9 competed in the GCHQ National Language Competition. They gave up their evenings, breaks and lunchtimes to complete as many online language themed code-breaking challenges as possible.

Over 2,000 teams participated nationwide, and the competition was fierce with pupils really putting their language skills to the test. We had some excellent results and the MFL department was really impressed by the teamwork and dedication shown by our Princethorpe pupils.



16

### Sixth Formers took part in Oxford RS Conference

In December, a group of Religious Studies A-level students visited Oxford University to take part in an A-level conference. They heard from Oxford academics who discussed questions such as the existence of God and the problem of evil, both of which feature in their A-level syllabus. It helped them secure their knowledge of these important topics before their exams, and also gave them a taste of university-style lectures.

Old Princethorpean, Issy Wardman, an RS A-level student from the Princethorpe Class of 2021 met up with the group and answered their many questions on topics from revision strategies to university applications.





# Michaelmas Trips

## 01 Sixth Form Biology Field Trip to Jurassic coast

The Upper Sixth visited Swanage in Dorset for their Biology Field Trip. An essential part of their A-level studies, the trip allowed students to complete two required assessed Biology practicals, as well as experiencing a variety of field work techniques. Students completed comparisons between the species found in slow- and fast-moving water on the River Piddle, examined the distribution and morphology of limpets and periwinkles at Kimmeridge Bay and surveyed Studland's sand dune succession. They also captured and recorded woodlice populations and examined mammal and moth traps. Everyone made the most the experience and the weekend's sunshine was a fantastic welcome bonus.

## 02 Lower Sixth residential to Dearne Valley

The Lower Sixth enjoyed a fabulous few days at Dearne Valley. Their three-day trip offered the students the chance to develop leadership and initiative skills, build personal resilience and gave them the important opportunity to bond together as a group. They took part in a variety of outward-bound activities including Raft Building, Zip Wire, Night Line, Low Ropes, and Bush Craft. In the evenings they enjoyed sports and games in a mini-Olympic challenge and plenty of camaraderie around the campfire. Everyone had fun and it was a great start to their time in the Sixth Form.

## 03 Year 11 Geography Field Trip

At the end of September, Year 11 Geography GCSE pupils set off for Preston Montford, to the west of Shrewsbury in Shropshire. There, pupils were able to put into practise the geographical field skills they had been studying in their lessons. Pupils spent one day exploring human geography topics, investigating retail changes in the central business district in the county town of Shrewsbury. They also spent a day investigating physical geography topics in Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton, surveying the rivers, undertaking measurements and investigating how river channel characteristics change and how they relate to flooding downstream.

## 04 Year 7 had a fabulous time at Whitemoor Lakes

In September, we took Year 7 to Whitemoor Lakes Outdoor Centre. Over three days, pupils took part in an itinerary that included fencing, canoeing, climbing, high ropes and problem solving. In groups they rotated around the different activities, working together to complete the challenges they were set. In the evenings they enjoyed team games and singing round the campfire. All in all, it was a fabulous weekend with plenty of old-fashioned fun.

## 05 Hampton Court Palace History trip

Upper Sixth History students walked in the footsteps of royalty at Hampton Court Palace in November. As part of their study of Tudor England they spent a morning discovering Henry VIII's Royal Apartments, admiring priceless Flemish tapestries in the Great Hall and sitting in the Council Chamber where Thomas Cromwell forged his new plans for the English State. Their guided tour helped them explore the driving forces behind the Reformation and brought their study of the period vividly to life.



# Michaelmas Trips





## Michaelmas Sport

### Success for College at local round of ESAA Cross Country Cup

Princethorpe College was delighted to welcome 175 runners from 12 Warwickshire schools on Monday 10 October for the local qualifying round of the English Schools Athletics Association's (ESAA) Cross Country Cup. Runners competed in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Boys and Girls races on a course that led competitors around the College's playing fields.

Princethorpe's Senior Boys and Senior Girls teams finished in first place overall. The Intermediate Girls finished in second place while the Junior Boys placed third. Both the Intermediate Boys and Junior Girls finished fourth. Well done to all the runners for their excellent efforts.



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**Congratulations to Princethorpe's Cross Country Senior Boys and Senior Girls teams who both finished in first place overall.**

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### Half Term Hopbel Hockey Tour returns

Over the Michaelmas half term Princethorpe's U15 Boys' and U14 Girls' hockey teams travelled to the Netherlands for the first leg of this year's annual Hockey Tour. On arrival at Hopbel Hockey Club the tour party were greeted warmly and whisked away by their Dutch host families to make friends and experience traditional Dutch family life.

Hockey wise, Princethorpe battled well and showed great improvement throughout the course of the tour, making use of all the extra coaching and practice. In their first two matches the boys went down 1-6 and 2-6 but remained resilient and were pleased to take the final match 7-1. The girls also had a challenging run just losing out in their first match 4-5, drawing the second 2-2 and then losing 0-3 in their final game.



# Michaelmas Sport



## First XV Rugby Team reach the area knockout final in the Schools Vase

The Boys 1st XV Rugby team put on a dominant display to claim an excellent 44-12 win against Hereford Cathedral School in Round 4 of the National Schools Vase in November. In an exciting match full of brave tackling the team played an impressive game.

The team progressed to the next round, the Area Knockout Final, where they faced Dr Challoner's Grammar School where in a well contested match they went down 12-20.



## South Coast Sports tour a great success

Over the half term, Princethorpe's PE and Games Department took 38 Year 8 and 9 pupils on a four-day tour along the south coast. The 15th Annual Junior Sports Tour included training and matches interspersed with plenty of off-pitch activities and fun.

The Year 9 boys had a very successful tour, their hard work in training paying dividends with three excellent wins. They faced Portsmouth Junior Rugby Club first and comfortably won with a super 39-5 score line. Their second match was a much greater challenge against the disciplined and never before beaten Dauntsey's School. Dauntsey's proved a tough test, but the boys weathered the storm well and their resilience and effort resulted in well organised and professional tries and an excellent 45-24 win. The boys then faced Bournemouth School For Boys claiming a third resounding victory 33-5.

The Year 8 netball girls also had some great results in their games, and what was most pleasing was their progression throughout the tour. Fielding two teams, the girls first played Portsmouth High School with both the A and B teams winning their matches, 16-5 and 10-6 respectively. Their second fixture was against Bournemouth School For Girls. The U13A team came up against fierce competition and a team that was very well practised. The girls played with grit and determination, but it wasn't enough to secure a win and the match finished with a loss 7-11. The U13B team however, played with consistency throughout their fixture and secured a second 8-3 win of the tour.



## Cross Country Teams run well at Warwickshire and ESAA Regional Finals

Princethorpe College's cross-country runners were busy in November, with the Warwickshire Inter Area in Stratford-upon-Avon, the English Schools Cup Regional Final at Bromsgrove School and the Warwickshire Inter County Race.

The College took 16 runners to the Inter Area event and 11 pupils qualified to run for Warwickshire in the Inter County Race at Himley Hall in Dudley. Year 7s, Charlie Leech and James Bostock, Year 8, William Smith, Year 9s, Lily Hunter and Charlie Atkins, Year 10s, Evie Marston and Jesse Esler, and Year 11s, Ava Farren, Kate Pomerleau, Ben Smith and Felix Batty, all ran well to help Warwickshire claim its first ever County title.

Princethorpe had qualified four teams to run in the ESAA Schools' Cup Regional Final, a first for the school, and was delighted that the Senior Girls team ran superbly finishing third overall to earn themselves a place in National Finals. The Senior Boys just missed out finishing fourth overall.



## Michaelmas Sport

### U15 Rugby Boys take the ISA 10-a-Side Cup

The U15 Boys Rugby team won the ISA Midlands 10-a-Side Cup at Worcester RFC on Monday 14 November. It was a new event in the calendar and Princethorpe's boys played a superb game with plenty of attacking rugby and a number of outstanding tries.

The boys won the Group stage with wins against Quinton House 39-0, Pitsford 29-0 and Worksop College 21-7 and progressed to the Cup playoffs. In the semi-final they put on another dominant display winning 36-0 against Bowbrook House before comfortably seeing off Worksop again 17-0 to take the title.



### U15 Girls Hockey Team take Silver at the ISA Nationals

The U15 Girls Hockey team celebrated after earning themselves a Silver medal at the ISA National tournament.

The team travelled to the Lee Valley National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday 9 November where they faced 20 schools from across the country. The tournament started with a pool round where the girls put on a confident display winning their four group games comfortably.

That put them through to the Cup playoffs where the girls held their nerve, played superbly against Farnborough Hill and were delighted with a 1-0 win. In the final, the girls faced local King's High School in a closely contested game. Princethorpe got into some good attacking positions and were unlucky not to score more. In the end the girls went down 4-1 to finish in second place and take the Silver medal.

### U13 Girls Hockey Team take Bronze at the ISA Nationals

The U13 Girls Hockey team celebrated after earning themselves a Bronze medal at the ISA National tournament. The team travelled to the Lee Valley National Hockey Stadium in November where they faced 20 schools from across the country. The tournament started with a pool round where the girls didn't let a single goal across their line.

In the Cup semi-final the girls faced Langley Prep, in a closely contested game, where they were unlucky not to score, the girls were disappointed to lose 0-1. Determined, they moved on to the Bronze medal match where they faced Ipswich High School. They held their nerve, took advantage of every opportunity presented, to win the game 3-2, and claim third place overall and the Bronze medal.



“

The tournament started with a pool round where the girls didn't let a single goal across their line.

”

## Michaelmas Sport



### College swimmers took 25 medals at ISA National Swimming Championships

Princethorpe's squad of 20 put in excellent performances helping the College achieve second place overall at the Midlands ISA Swimming Gala. The team brought home 13 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

Nine pupils qualified for the National event where they had another super successful outing bringing home 12 Gold, 8 Silver and 5 Bronze medals, an incredible haul!

Year 7, Issey Cleary took Gold in the 50m Breaststroke and a Silver in the 50m Butterfly while Year 7 Stephanie Bolton earned herself two Silver medals in the 50m Backstroke and 50m Freestyle. Both girls then swam for the Midlands team in the 4x50m Medley Relay and the 4x50m Freestyle Relay where they also took the Gold.

Year 8 Charlotte Gower brought home a Silver and a Bronze medal after finishing second in the 50m Backstroke and third in the 50m Freestyle. Year 8, Tara Rodgers also won a Silver medal in the 50m Butterfly.

Together the girls swam for the Midlands in the 4x50m Medley Relay finishing third for Bronze. Charlotte then swam in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay taking another Bronze.

Year 10, André Onyekwe swam superbly in four events and came away with three Gold medals in the 100m Freestyle, the 100m Backstroke and as part of the 4x50m Freestyle Relay team. He also won a Silver medal in the 4x50m Medley Relay. Year 10, Harrison Guest joined André in the Medley Relay, swimming the Breaststroke leg and earning himself a Silver medal, to add to his Bronze medal from the 100m Breaststroke.

In the senior races, Year 11, Lottie Hunter claimed a Gold medal in the 100m Freestyle and then took a second Gold when she helped the Midlands team finish first in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay. Lower Sixth Former, Connor Silvester earned himself a Silver medal in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay.

Together our pupils' medal winning performances helped the Midlands team finish in second place overall at the national event.

### First XI Football Team reach last 16 in the ISFA Cup

The Boys 1st XI Football team put on an excellent show in the Independent Schools Football Associations' Boodles Cup. In a super third round match they claimed a 4-1 win away at Mill Hill School on Tuesday 15 November. In a well fought game Toby Nicoll made the most of his chances claiming a hat-trick with Barnaby Hammond taking Princethorpe's score to 4. The result meant the boys reached the final sixteen.

The boys then faced Hamptons School at home. Despite being a goal up at half time, thanks to Toby Nicoll assisted by Luc Sen-Gupta, and a great penalty save by Finn Osborn, they eventually went down 1-3. It was an intense game where Princethorpe never gave up until the final whistle blew.

It was a fantastic achievement to reach the last 16, the furthest the College has ever progressed in the competition.



### Senior Girls run in The ESAA Cross Country Final

Princethorpe's Senior Girls Cross Country team travelled north to The Grammar School at Leeds in December to compete in the ESAA National Finals of the Schools' Cross Country Cup.

Lower Sixth Formers, Grace Darcy, Jess Evans, Emma Sarkies and Natasha Thomas and Year 11s, Kate Pomerleau and Ava Farren had run in a local round at Princethorpe, and then a regional final in Bromsgrove to qualify for the event. They were competing against runners from schools across the country, as they set off around the 3.15km course. It was a great opportunity for the girls to compete against some of the UK's very best.

Teacher of PE and Games, Will Bower, was pleased with their performance saying, "It was fantastic to see the College represented at the ESAA Cross-Country National Final. The girls finished 18th out of the whole country which is an amazing achievement."





## Prize Giving 2022

### Prize Giving celebrates pupils' exceptional achievements



**Another great year of achievement, progress, creativity and contribution was celebrated at Princethorpe College's annual Prize Giving Ceremony at the Butterworth Hall, at Warwick University's Arts Centre on Friday 18 November.**

Chair of Trustees, Mrs Liz Griffin, opened the proceedings, warmly welcoming parents, friends of the College and Princethorpians old and new to the occasion.

In his formal address, the Headmaster, Ed Hester, gave thanks to all those who make Princethorpe the special place it is. His warm words paid tribute to all that is done by so many in support of the College. He reminded us of St. John Henry Newman's words 'To live is to change', and reflected on the changes we all experience, before congratulating last year's Year 11 and Upper Sixth on their resilience and tenacity over the course of the last three challenging years.

All evening the atmosphere was joyful and celebratory and there were superb musical interludes from the school String Orchestra, Concert Band and the Year 7 Choir.

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

This year, the Princethorpe Shield, the oldest and most prestigious College award presented annually to the student who is seen to embody the spirit and ethos of the College, was awarded to a delighted and surprised Greg Burford.



## Prize Giving 2022

Inspirational Prize Giving celebrates  
pupils' great achievements



“

The talent in evidence, the grit and determination, the passion, enthusiasm and commitment were all applauded and honoured.

”





# Charity



01

## College supports World Porridge Day

Pupils marked World Porridge Day by raising money for Mary's Meals. Championed by our Sixth Formers, pupils participated in a posse of Scottish and porridge fundraising fun. At break time pupils dug deep to purchase the traditional Scottish breakfast, a pot of porridge, and the Scottish theme continued out on the Close at lunchtime with the annual William Wallace Welly Wanging Challenge. Organised by House, there were plenty of contenders lined up ready to enthusiastically fling, hurl, chuck and toss the wellies across the fields.



02

## Sixth Form #WoreItPink

The Sixth Form held its annual 'Pink Day' in October, in support of breast cancer charities. The Sixth Form Centre and corridors across the College all turned pink as students donned fancy dress to raise money for the national campaign. As part of a non-uniform day, every pupil in the College made a small donation to support the Sixth Form's fundraising efforts.



03

## 101 Shoeboxes donated to Teams4U Appeal

A grand total of 101 boxes were assembled for the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal. They were packed full of little gifts and essentials, ordinary items to us but of great value to those who receive the gift. Collected through Tutor Groups, our thanks go to all the pupils, parents and staff who donated to the appeal and to Year 11 pupils, Jack Dando, Louise Gambling, Isaac Kirby, Alex Mold, Genevieve Slater-Tucker, Tom Smith and Jemima Teeton and Year 8 pupils, Isabella Kay and Emily Knight, for so ably supporting the appeal by assembling, sorting and packing the boxes.



04

## Pupils and parents respond generously to Food Bank Appeal

Princethorpe College pupils, parents and staff responded generously to the Chaplaincy's seasonal Food Bank appeal. The school community was asked to bring in items of non-perishable food and they did not disappoint, showing a sense of empathy, generosity and solidarity. All the donations were passed on to the St Vincent de Paul Society, to be packed into hampers to be given to local families in need. Thank you to Year 7 pupils, Katherine Lee and Ro Somerset, and their peers for their help with organising the donations.

# Christmas

## Christmas Card Competition

The College Christmas Card competition was won by Lower Sixth Former, Alex Matheson. His super drawing featured the iconic Princethorpe tower surrounded by holly and red berries. Alex's symbolic drawing of the tower, his use of colour and originality all helped his design stand out.



## Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

College Sixth Formers welcomed over 50 guests, for a special Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch. The guests were served turkey and all the trimmings, prepared by the College catering team and waited on by College Sixth Formers. Ruby Harris and Freya Mills led everyone in the joyful sing-along of much loved Christmas carols. Before they left all of the visitors were presented with a personalised Christmas card produced by pupils from the College and from local Princethorpe primary school, Our Lady's.

## Wreath Making Evenings

The South Africa Tour fundraising Wreath Making Evenings were a huge success with the Sixth Form Centre a hive of festive activity as parents grappled with evergreen foliage and wire, baubles, pinecones and ribbons to create wreaths to be proud of. Everyone enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and came away with a cracking Christmas door decoration.



## Science's Spectacular Christmas Lecture

The Science department hosted their first Christmas Lecture that tried to answer key questions such as "Why is Santa always dressed in red?", "How many hours of running does Santa need to burn off the mince pie calories?" and "How is fog formed?" Demonstrations included multi-coloured flame jars to show the colours of the rainbow, turning sherry into water (Science is magic), making artificial fog with dry ice (solid carbon dioxide) and making ice cream with liquid nitrogen (which was of course sampled by all in the audience).

## Chapel Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree in the College Chapel was lovingly decorated with twinkling lights and carefully hand cut candles, each holding the name of a special someone. It's a tradition for all members of the college community to write the names of those who have touched their lives with love and have a special place in their hearts on a card which are then carefully positioned on the tree. Our thanks go to Year 7 pupils, Hattie Godfrey and Lottie Corbin, who helped with preparing and hanging the candles.





## Lent News



### 01 Distinction for Daniel in the Oxford University Computing Challenge

Year 9, Daniel Ovens Gibbs, competed in the Intermediate section of the OUCC against just over 9,500 invited pupils. To add to the challenge, this year the time limit to complete the tasks was reduced to 45 minutes instead of one hour. That did not faze Daniel though, who finished in the top 1%, achieving a Distinction grade for his submission as well as beating his score from last year. It was great to see Daniel's abilities recognised in such a prestigious competition.



### 02 Local butchers Aubrey Allen shared their skills with Year 11

Master butcher, Simon Kelly, from Aubrey Allen in Leamington Spa visited Princethorpe College in January to share his skills with Year 11 pupils studying for their Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE. Under Simon's expert guidance the pupils worked hard to bone a chicken before being shown how to prepare two different dishes. The curriculum pupils study is based on higher level skills and the techniques pupils learnt supported them in their practical exams later in the year.



### 03 College Sixth Formers win local Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

For the second year on the run, College Sixth Formers won the local Youth Speaks competition. Princethorpe students, Charlotte Frost, Eloise Keil and Tom Lomas, saw off stiff competition from teams of pupils from other schools in the local round held in Warwick.

The team debated the motion 'This House believes that Valentine's Day is nothing more than a commercial enterprise.' Eloise spoke in favour and Tom spoke against, while Charlotte acted as Chairman. They were commended for their teamwork and they received a very warm response from the audience who clearly enjoyed the lighter moments in the debate. In what was a tightly fought competition they put in an outstanding effort.



### 04 Year 11 tackle Intermediate Physics Challenge

Pupils in Year 11 put their physics skills to the test in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Online challenge. Our top Year 11 physicists tackled the online challenge with enthusiasm building their confidence, understanding and problem-solving prowess. Their results were excellent with five pupils awarded Silver, Thomas Smith, Jack Fleming, Connor Smith, Freddie Dalton and Louise Gambling, who achieved the best score. Four pupils received Bronze Awards, Giorgio Kleinmann, Jemima Teeton, Lampros Papadogiannakis and Jack Dando. An excellent result in these well-respected tests.

## Lent News



05



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05

### Sophie was a superstar at the Regional FutureChef Final

In February, Year 9 pupil, Sophie Henry, cooked up a storm in the Springboard FutureChef Regional Final at Stoke-on-Trent College. Before the event, Sophie prepared thoroughly putting a lot of time into menu planning and practising her dishes. She was the youngest competitor in the Regional Final and the food she produced was of the highest standard and beautifully presented. Sophie did brilliantly, she was awarded a cook book for being the cook's choice and received really positive feedback from the judges.

07

### College celebrates World Book Day

Staff and pupils had a great time celebrating World Book Day. One of the English department and Library highlights of the year, it is always a great opportunity to share the joy of books. At break time the Library ran a 'Book And A Biscuit' session and there were plenty of enthusiastic readers willing to give new and different genres a try.

After a busy day of lessons, the whole school community took part in a 'Drop Everything And Read Challenge'. In the last lesson of the day, pupils pulled out their favourites and settled down to read.

06

### Lower Sixth take on the Senior Physics Challenge

Ten of Princethorpe's finest physicists competed in the Senior Physics Challenge. The students completed two multiple choice tests, each with 20 challenging and diverse questions. Head of Physics, Dan Lee, was delighted with their results commenting, "The British Physics Olympiad Challenges are well respected tests. Our students all did very well, congratulations to them all."

Well done to Zak Abba, Jack Grindal, Andy Wills, Archy Walker and Jake Lambert for achieving the Bronze Award; Emma Sarkies and Oliver Llewellyn for achieving the Silver Award and a special mention to Chris Lock, Alex Flegg and Joseph Newborough, who all achieved the highest accolade of Gold.

08

### Bookbuzz Competition winner Eve interviewed Mr du Toit

In March, Princethorpe's Bookbuzz competition winner, Eve Tilley, sat down with Mr du Toit to discuss all things *Lu* by Jason Reynolds. Bookbuzz is a nation-wide reading programme from the Book Trust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading. Year 7, Eve won the College's internal competition by recommending the most apt read for the new Headmaster based on facts he shared with the pupils before joining Princethorpe.

Eve posed many questions to Mr du Toit, including: his most and least favourite parts of the novel, which age group he would recommend it to, and, if given the opportunity, which part of it he would change. At the end, Mr du Toit even asked Eve a few questions of his own – demonstrating the power a good book can have in terms of cultivating discussion.



## Lent News



### 09 Princethorpe pupils rise to the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

In February, pupils took part in the 2023 UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Challenge. Aimed at pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11, 84 Princethorpe pupils were selected to take part. It is a demanding exercise designed to stretch and test pupils' mathematical skills, so the College was delighted that this year, Princethorpe's mathematicians achieved exceptional results. Special congratulations to Olivia Monk in Year 10, who was awarded a Gold certificate, and took the award for best performing pupil in school. A huge well done to all the certificate winners.



### 10 Princethorpe shines the spotlight on Science

Princethorpe took part in British Science Week, a national celebration of Science run by the British Science Association. Pupils enjoyed entertaining and interesting activities designed to highlight the importance of Science and inspire and engage the next generation of scientists.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 took on Biology, Chemistry and Physics challenges in their Science lessons, getting hands on with experiments.

Pupils in the lower school also took part in a national poster competition on the theme of 'connections' with the best entries submitted into the national competition.

British Science Week shined a spotlight on Science and provided a great platform to engage pupils.



### 11 Out of Darkness was a moving reflection

In March, pupils from Year 7 to Upper Sixth performed *Out of Darkness*, a reflection on the Stations of the Cross. The performance took place in Our Lady Of The Angels Chapel and included meditations through reflections, mime, music and song.

The Stations of the Cross is a devotional commemoration of Jesus Christ's journey from the moment of his condemnation by Pontius Pilate to his death and burial. The journey from station to station is often considered as a mini pilgrimage, and at each station there is the opportunity to reflect and meditate.

A huge well done to all the performers and to the backstage crew on a really moving and thought-provoking production.

## Performance

### The Addams Family was amazing



Our College production of *The Addams Family - School Edition* was simply spectacular. The Clarkson Theatre was filled with humour and haunts galore as our talented cast of pupils, from Year 7 right up to Sixth Form, brought this legendary, quirky family to life.

We met the ultimate princess of darkness, Wednesday Addams, all grown up and with a shocking secret that only her father, the suave Gomez, knows.

For six performances we joined them, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley and more, for a heart-warming story of love, family and friendship in a creepy but charming tale. It was fabulous, full of vibrant energy and enthusiasm and, as they always are, a most entertaining and enjoyable show.





## Lent Trips



### 01 Parliament Trip brings A-level studies to life

In January, Lower Sixth History, Politics and Law students visited the Houses of Parliament, the Supreme Court and the Royal Courts of Justice to gain insights and experiences to inform their A-levels studies.

The students toured Parliament learning about its history before meeting Reece Parslow, PSO for Sir Jeremy Wright MP, he spoke to the students about the routes for young people into working in Parliament. Then it was off to Committee Room 5 where the students were met by local Rugby MP Mark Pawsey, he spoke about the role of an MP and fielded questions from the group.

Students then headed to the Supreme Court where Mrs Essery delivered a fantastic self-guided tour and the students got to visit the court rooms of the highest court of appeal in the land.



### 02 Sixth Form Chemists enjoy explosive lecture

In February, Sixth Form Chemists enjoyed a fascinating lecture organised by the local branch of the Royal Society of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham. The extra-curricular trip provided an opportunity to appreciate the practical applications of chemistry, as well as offering an insight into life and lectures at university.

Dr Tom Smith of CarnDu Limited spoke on the chemistry behind fireworks, colours, effects and using gas pressure to form different whistles and bangs. Students were exposed to the dangers and challenges of unstable compounds, blast zones and organising impressive displays.



### 03 Lower Sixth Geographers Field Trip

Lower Sixth Geographers enjoyed a residential field trip to the Cranedale Centre at Kirby Grindalythe near Malton, in the Yorkshire Wolds. There they conducted field studies on coastal places including measuring beach profiles as well as exercises in planning and carrying out small scale projects and investigating housing and land use.

As well as working in and around the Field Centre, they visited Flamborough Head, the Holderness Coast and Scarborough Town. It was an invaluable learning experience that assisted them all in completing their important NEA coursework.



### 04 Sixth Formers explore Tate Britain and Victoria and Albert Museum

In February, Sixth Form Art and Photography students visited the Tate Britain and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to provide the students with an important opportunity to develop their ideas and inspirations as they started to prepare for their summer A-level examinations.

The students studied a wide-range of contemporary artwork and exhibitions, taking photos and sketching from observation. It was really useful preparation for their externally set task in their summer examinations.



### 05 Year 10 Business Studies trip to Cadbury World

In March, the Economics and Business department took 62 Year 10 Business Studies pupils on a trip around the Cadbury Experience. Pupils enjoyed watching demonstrations of chocolate making, including using tempered chocolate. They had a visit to a 4D cinema and along the way managed to taste an awful lot of chocolate.

They also attended a marketing presentation in the Education Centre which provided further information about the workings of Cadbury as a business. They were challenged to create their own Cadbury's chocolate concept, considering target market, price, and where and how they would sell it.

# Careers Fair

## Princethorpe's Careers Fair provides insights into wealth of career possibilities

**Princethorpe College welcomed a capacity crowd of nearly 1,000 pupils, parents, staff and contributors to the College's sixth biennial Careers Fair on Saturday 18 March.**



Nearly fifty speakers, including current and former parents and Old Princethorpians, gave their time to present on a wide variety of careers and professions. From Accountancy, Finance and Banking to Medicine and Midwifery, Engineering, Computing, Law, Architecture, Product Design, Fashion, Sports Careers, Police and the Armed Forces and even Teaching, individual presentations gave pupil attendees the chance to consider careers, research jobs, listen to advice and ask questions. The morning included a keynote speech from guest speaker, freelance journalist and personal finance reporter, Old Princethorpian, Felicity Hannah. She gave pupils her top tips for success, to network, ask advice, never stand still, be persistent, say thank you and to be the person who is remembered for all the right reasons.

Princethorpe's Sixth Form Atrium served as an exhibition hub for universities from across the country such as Cardiff, Sheffield, Aberystwyth, Falmouth and nearer to home Warwick.

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





## Lent Sport

### Five Princethorpe teams are Warwickshire County Cross Country Champions

The Warwickshire Schools Championships took place in January at Princethorpe College. 46 Princethorpe runners competed against the best runners from 29 Warwickshire schools.

The Minor Boys, Inter Boys, Senior Boys, Inter Girls and Senior Girls all placed first overall claiming the team County Cross Country Championship titles. The Junior Boys team placed second, the Junior Girls third and the Minor Girls fifth.

Ben Smith and Evie Marston earned themselves Gold medals, Felix Batty and Lily Hunter claimed Silvers and Grace Darcy a Bronze and a total of 12 pupils qualified to run for the County in the ESAA National Championships in March.



### U14 Netball Girls are runners up in ISA Tournament

The U14s got their ISA Midlands Tournament off to a great start in January, with a 30-0 win in their first game against Highclare School. They went on to beat Stafford Grammar and RGS convincingly before losing to King's High School 14-7. As group runners up they qualified for the play-offs. They first faced Kingsley in their semi-final where they won with a big goal difference qualifying for the final against King's High. In a very tight and fast game the girls played excellent netball only missing out on the top spot by two goals. They finished as overall tournament runners up.



### U13 Hockey Boys take Bronze in the Plate at ISA Nationals

The U13 Boys Hockey team competed in the National ISA Hockey Tournament at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre in February. Facing 21 teams from across the country, they performed incredibly well throughout the day, not conceding a goal in open play. They came home with a Bronze medal in the Plate competition after losing out in the semi-final on penalty flicks.



### U13 Girls take Silver in ISA Tournament

The U13 Girls ISA Midlands Tournament took place in February. The girls worked hard and were unbeaten in the group stages, seeing off Stafford Grammar 7-0, Birchfield School 12-0, Highclare School 14-0, Pitsford School 12-0, Tetterhall College 11-1 and Kingsley 9-1. They qualified for the play offs as group winners where the determined team managed to secure wins in the quarter finals against Bedstone 14-1 and in the semi-finals versus Loughborough High 6-2. They faced King's High in the final where despite communicating and playing well, they went down 10-5 to finish as tournament runners up.





## Lent Sport

### Princethorpe takes U18 Mid and South Warwickshire Small Sided Cup

Princethorpe College took two teams to compete in the Mid and South Warwickshire SFA U18 Small Sided Cup held at North Leamington School in February.

The teams were a mixture of 1st and 2nd team players but separated by age, with one Sixth Form team and one U16 team. Both teams won their respective groups and consequently met in the final. It was a full bodied, high intensity game with both sets of players giving their all and playing some superb free flowing football. The decisive and winning goal came from Joel Nicoll and the game ended 1-0, with the U16 team taking the win.



### Gold medals aplenty at Warwick Swimming Gala

Pupils had a great day of swimming at the Warwick School U12 and U13 Swimming Gala on Thursday 2 February, with double Gold medals for Charlotte, Issey and Stephanie. The U12 Girls team swam brilliantly to win their competition and the U12 and U13 girls took first place overall in the girls' competition.



### Girls' Football Teams play first competitive matches ever

Our U15 and U13 Girls Football teams played Kenilworth School in their first competitive matches in February. The U15s lost 6-0 to a very good Kenilworth side, but hit the post and held their own in the second half after being 5-0 down at half-time. The U13 A and B teams played a mixture of games against Kenilworth's A, B and C sides and they all did really well. All the girls really enjoyed their matches, definitely improving as a team, and they all represented their school fantastically.



### U15 Rugby Sevens team take Silver at the ISA Nationals

The U15 Boys Rugby team took part in the ISA National Rugby Sevens at Market Bosworth Rugby Club. The boys got their tournament off to a good start winning all their games in the group stage qualifying for the Cup competition in the afternoon. In the semi-final they met Ditcham Park School and they managed to hold their opponents to a 22-22 draw. The game was decided in a drop kick shoot-out with five kickers taking a kick each from the 22 line. Princethorpe won 1-0 and went through to the final. In the last match off the day, the boys faced Finborough School, but fortune went against them and they went down 0-33. Their second-place finish earned the team the Silver medal.





## Lent Sport

### U14 Boys win Tier 2 Regional Hockey Finals

The U14 Boys Hockey team won the Tier 2 Regional Finals at Rugby School in March. It was an excellent afternoon of hockey with great games and great competition from all the schools. Princethorpe's boys came from a goal down in the final to win on penalty shuffles.



### Gold and Bronze at ISA National Cross Country Championships

12 Princethorpe College runners competed in National ISA Cross Country Championships at Worksop College in Nottinghamshire in March. They were on excellent form with five pupils finishing in the top ten and two earning themselves prized positions on the podium.

In the U16 Boys race, Year 11, Ben Smith ran superbly and was first across the line taking a well-deserved Gold medal, while in the U18 Girls race, Lower Sixth Former, Grace Darcy ran determinedly to finish third claiming herself a Bronze medal. Year 10, Evie Marston just missed a medal in the U16 Girls race after finishing in fourth place.

### Equestrian team win the Bloxham School Championships again

Princethorpe's equestrian team finished first overall in the Bloxham School Arena Eventer Challenge Championships. The eventers and their hard-working support crew of parents competed in rounds all winter and were extremely successful.

The 90cm team finished first overall and were reigning champions for the second year running, an amazing result against some really experienced school teams. Well done to the riders, Year 11s, Harriet Boyd and Sammie Borland and, Year 9, Rosie Moreton.



### Pupils Compete in National Cross Country Championships

In March, eight Princethorpe College runners competed for Warwickshire against hundreds of runners in the English Schools National Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Park, Nottingham. On a fast, undulating and muddy course, the pupils all ran superbly for the county team.

Representing Warwickshire from Princethorpe were Grace Darcy in the U18 Senior Girls, Ben Smith, Felix Batty and Jesse Esler in U16 Inter Boys, Evie Marston, Ava Farren and Kate Pomerleau in the U16 Inter Girls and Lily Hunter in the U14 Junior Girls.

It was a fantastic effort at a prestigious event!

### U13 Netballers just miss a medal at the ISA Nationals

Having qualified for the ISA Nationals, the U13 Girls travelled to King's High as one of 28 teams taking part in the ISA Nationals.

The girls had a great start and flew through the group stage, playing with control, patience and passion they won all four matches and qualified for the final four of the Cup competition.

The afternoon matches proved to be much more of a challenge and despite their determination the girls lost the semi-finals to Thomas Battersea. The Bronze medal play off was a nail-biting game where the girls gave their all but unfortunately in the final few minutes, play went against them and they lost 2-4. They finished fourth overall,



# Winter Sports Awards

## College Sport celebrated at Winter Sports Awards

Princethorpe College's Winter Sports Awards took place on the last day of the Lent Term. It was an opportunity to recognise the achievements of the College's young sportsmen and sportswomen at all levels and across all sports.

The award ceremony began with the awarding of sporting colours recognising pupils' commitment to sport. That was followed by a summary of the performances of the College's teams, with awards recognising endeavour, progress, coach's player and most valuable player.



Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, Head of Girls' Games, Jen Law, and Head of Boys' Games, Joe Jackson, then went on to announce the teams of the season. The Girls Sports Team of The Year was awarded to the U14A Girls Hockey Team recognising their success across the year, including finishing as runners up in the Tier 2 England Hockey Schools Midlands Championships and taking the Warwickshire County Championship title. For the Boys Sports Team of The Year, the award went to the U14A Boys Hockey team, they won the Tier 2 England Hockey Schools Midlands Championships and also took the Warwickshire County Championship title.

Then it was time for the individual awards, they included:



Junior Sports Girl of The Year  
Grace McCollin



Junior Sports Boy of The Year  
James Wright



Senior Sports Girl of The Year  
Evie Marston



Senior Sports Boy of The Year  
Alastair Clifford



Sixth Form Sports Girls of The Year  
Evie Phillips



Sixth Form Sports Boy of The Year  
Edward Sharpe

Congratulations to all the award winners, it was a successful season for the College with plenty to celebrate across the school.



# Prefects

## Princethorpe College Prefect Body and Subject Ambassadors for 2023-2024



The new Princethorpe College Prefect Body for 2023-2024 was formally inaugurated into office at an end of term ceremony on Friday 24 March. Outgoing Head of School, Pratheesh Prabakaran formally handed over the keys of office to the incoming Heads of School, Natalya Elden and Izzy Wright, on behalf of himself and fellow Head of School, Freya Mills.

### 2023/24 Prefect Body

<b>Heads of School</b>	Natalya Elden Izzy Wright	<b>Social Prefects</b>	Emilia Case Noah Kemp
<b>Deputy Leaders</b>	Radley Evans Tom Lomas Connor Silvester Alice Whittaker	<b>Charity Prefects</b>	Grace Isaacs Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey
<b>Pastoral Prefects</b>	Lily Cartlidge Amelie Hancock Poppy James Chris Lock Isy Williams	<b>Academic Prefects</b>	Lauren Bach Amy Hogg Joseph Newborough Emma Sarkies Natasha Thomas
<b>Austin Captains</b>	Jess Evans Sophie Gray	<b>Marketing Prefects</b>	Toby Convey Abby Long
<b>Benet Captains</b>	Alex Leret Molly McGrory	<b>Environment Prefect</b>	George Wild
<b>Fisher Captains</b>	Abigail Hewson Alexander Matheson	<b>Arts Prefect</b>	Dina Parmenter
<b>More Captains</b>	Eloise Keil Finn Osborn	<b>Ethos Prefect</b>	Zara Simpson
		<b>Games Prefects</b>	Mary-Ellen Boyle Darcey Heritage Zak Johnson Charlotte Lewington Rahul Samra

# Trinity News

## 01 Pupils and staff abseiled down Princethorpe's iconic tower

Pupils and staff conquered the 30-metre-high Chapel tower in an epic fundraising abseil challenge in April. As part of a drive to raise funds to support their summer 2023 South Africa sporting tour, the pupils from Year 11 and the Sixth Form enthusiastically took on the once in a lifetime challenge.

Sixth Formers, Evie Phillips and Millie Giffin, led the way effortlessly abseiling the 100-foot drop to cheers from waiting classmates on the ground below. The last to descend were Headmaster, Grove du Toit, and Deputy Head Pastoral, Beth Sharpe, who ascended the tower at 5.30pm for their turn to climb over the parapets.



## 02 Student success in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad

Sixth Form students took part in the UK Chemistry Olympiad, a national chemistry competition run by the Royal Society Of Chemistry. Both students received certificates, William Gibson-Sexton was awarded a Silver certificate while Joshua Apaya was awarded a Bronze certificate. They faced tough national competition, and we congratulated the Princethorpe pair on their excellent results.



## 03 Lower Sixth Physicists rise to the Senior Physics Challenge

During March, Princethorpe's Lower Sixth physicists took part in the British Physics Olympiad Year 12 Senior Physics Challenge. Competing against over 6,000 pupils from almost 400 schools nationwide, the students sat a gruelling one hour long written paper, where none of the marks were easy to get.

Alex Flegg was awarded a Silver certificate, while Joseph Newborough, was the first Princethorpe College pupil to achieve Gold in the Year 12 Senior Challenge. Congratulations to all the students who were awarded certificates.



## 04 Four Princethorpe pupils awarded LAMDA Grade 8 Gold medal

Four Princethorpe College pupils achieved Distinction in their London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) Grade 8 Gold medal examinations.

Year 11 pupil, Alexandra Bonsall, Lower Sixth Form student, Grace Isaacs, and Upper Sixth Form student, James Maclean, all sat the LAMDA Grade 8 Acting examination while Upper Sixth Form student, Mitchell Endenburg took his Grade 8 Public Speaking examination.

Gold is the highest medal awarded by LAMDA and takes years of training to achieve.





## Trinity News



### 05 Princethorpe pupils rise to The Junior Mathematics Challenge

In April, pupils from Princethorpe College took part in the 2023 UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Challenge. The competition is aimed at pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 and Princethorpe selected 92 able mathematicians to participate.

Congratulations to Year 8 pupils, Jay Patil and Tara Rodgers who were awarded a Gold certificate, and took the joint award for best performing pupils in school, and to Year 7 pupils, Dillon Horan and Charles Packe, who were awarded a Gold certificate, and took the award for best performing pupils in Year 7. Gold certificates were also awarded to Year 8 pupils, Woody Osborn, Noah Cowlshaw, Theo Read-Jones, Thomas Zanyi and Jessie Murphy, and to Year 7 pupil George Knott.

Many pupils received Silver and Bronze certificates. Well done to them all.



### 06 Princethorpe's Police Department solve The Crime Scene Challenge

Over the course of the Trinity Term, Year 8 crime scene investigator trainees studied different forensic science techniques, from fingerprinting and blood splatter analysis to footprint evidence and soil samples, as well as how to process a crime scene and handwriting analysis.

As a finale to their co-curricular club, Year 8 were called upon to investigate, after a 'body' was found in the cellars. The pupils donned their protective clothing and set off to search the school for evidence. It was a deadly mystery, but Year 8 were more than up for the challenge.



### 07 Five Year 10 pupils awarded Gold in The Junior Physics Challenge

62 Year 10 pupils competed in the British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge, an online competition where pupils answer multiple-choice questions across two tests in just 50 minutes.

Pupils' results were, once again, excellent, a huge well done to all who took part. Particular congratulations go to Zach Hawkins who was the top performing pupil from the school, Zach achieved a Gold certificate, along with Anna Johnson, Jesse Esler, Amelia Chard and Theo Sparkes. Pupils at the College were also awarded 14 Silver, 41 Bronze and two Commendation certificates.



### 08 Plenty of inspiration at the Girls in STEM Workshop

29 girls from Year 8 to Lower Sixth visited the British Motor Museum in June to take part in a special Girls in STEM careers workshop.

They enjoyed an keynote presentation with Jenny Eyes, Digital Product Chief at Jaguar Land Rover and a Women In Motoring guided tour that included how women were instrumental in the development of the first combustion engine powered car. The girls became 'Engineering Apprentices' removing and replacing a wheel of a remote-control car in a race against time and took on a challenge to build a crane with pulley system to lift ammunition.

The day culminated with the opportunity to meet Eliza Seville, Formula Woman 2022 winner and mechanic and test pilot at Roborace, and Chloe Grant from Laser Tools GB4 Racing Team, to discover what it takes to be a successful woman in motorsport. It was an inspirational opportunity for the girls!

# Trinity News

## 09 Year 11 celebrate with Thanksgiving Service

For Year 11, Tuesday 27 June was an important day. With their public examinations finally out of the way, the pupils and their families were invited back to the College to celebrate the end of their GSCE year in a final Year 11 Thanksgiving Service.

Led by Father Alan Whelan, MSC, the service was held in the College Chapel. A number of staff, including Heads of House and members of the Senior Leadership Team, gave emotional readings that reflected the aspirations the College holds for their future.

As friends, families and pupils trickled out of the Chapel towards the Sixth Form Lawn to catch up, dish out hugs and enjoy a fine spread for lunch, there was a buzz of excitement ahead of the evening's all-important prom!



## 10 Peter Kay shares his insights into Product Design

The College welcomed Peter Kay from DCA Design Ltd in June to talk to our Lower Sixth Product Design students.

Peter began by sharing his incredible product design career journey before giving the students an overview of the history of DCA International and some of the iconic projects they have worked on. He then moved on to talk about the process of product design, using the double diamond model. He shared how the design team work together to develop new and innovative products.

Many thanks to Peter for providing a fascinating insight into the world of product design.



## 11 Lower Sixth Physicists test their knowledge in Inter Schools Physics and Engineering Competition

In June, eight students took part in the Lower Sixth Inter Schools Physics and Engineering Competition at the National Mathematics and Science College. In an invitational event, they joined pupils from Rugby School and the National College, and worked in mixed teams to complete three different activities designed to stretch them.

Their first task was an estimation challenge, the second involved complex problems to solve, then the final round was a physics 'Pub Quiz' that tested their knowledge of all things related to the subject.

Four Princethorpe Sixth Formers, Archy Walker, Louis Harper, Alex Flegg and Jack Grindal, were in winning teams and were awarded medals for their achievement.



## 12 Upper Sixth say farewell with a Thanksgiving Eucharist and Fabulous Ball

Princethorpe's Upper Sixth celebrated the end of the examination season and their time at Princethorpe with a beautiful Thanksgiving Eucharist and a fabulous farewell ball. It was one last chance for them to gather to reminisce over their time at the College, the friends they have made and the many adventures they have had along the way.

Parents and students came together on Thursday 29 June to mark the end of their Princethorpe journey with a moving Eucharist service in the Chapel and enjoyed a buffet supper afterwards in their home for the last two years, the Sixth Form Centre.

Their Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball followed one week later on Wednesday 5 July at Warwick House in Southam. The students smartly attired in black tie and ball gowns enjoyed a sparkling reception, followed by a delicious sit-down dinner, much anticipated speeches and then dancing until dark.





## Art and Design Show



### Another exceptional Summer Art, Photography, Design and Textiles Show

**The Summer Art, Photography, Design and Textiles Show opened on Thursday 22 June with a special evening reception for the artists and their families, friends and guests.**

The displays remained on show until Sunday 25 June allowing visitors to the College's Summer Fête and Motoring Festival to enjoy the superb standard of work the GCSE and A-level pupils had produced.

Those who know the College will be familiar with its formidable reputation for quality Art and Design and this year's show was no exception. Visitors were audibly impressed with what they saw, stopping to stare in wonder, exclaiming over the ingenuity and talent and enjoying the fine collection of work. Our congratulations go to all our GCSE and A-level pupils for producing such a worthy display.





## Charity



### Half Marathon for Mary's Meals

Staff and OPs pounded the pavements in January to raise money for Mary's Meals. Rod Isaacs, Cyp Vella, Andy Compton, Clare White, Ellie Callan and Ben Collie were joined by OP Tom Pilling on Saturday 29 January to navigate a half marathon off road route starting and finishing at Newbold Common in Leamington.

The hardy runners were fundraising for Mary's Meals, and specifically the College's project to feed the 600 pupils of Makalanga Primary School, near Blantyre in Malawi.



### 40 Mile Challenge for Mary's Meals

On Sunday 2 April, a small group of Sixth Form students and staff took on the Coventry Way Challenge and walked an amazing 40 miles in just one day. Their route circumnavigated the city of Coventry, starting in Meriden at 6.00am and walking through Stoneleigh, Brinklow and Corley Moor before finally returning to Meriden. After heavy rain the walking conditions were at times challenging, but they resiliently continued. First over the line were Sam Allen and Ed Mitchell who completed the challenge in 12 hours and 20 minutes. We were incredibly proud of them all.



### Valentine's Day flowers support MS Society

Individual red and white carnations were distributed to classrooms across the College on Tuesday 14 February in celebration of St Valentine's Day.

In the run up to the day, Sixth Form students had been busy promoting the charity fundraiser in aid of the MS Society. On the Monday afternoon, Princethorpe's Cupids, began preparing the flowers, delicately wrapping and handwriting personal messages for the anonymous gifts. There were red carnations for that special someone and white carnations as a thank you to a great friend.



### Annual 24 miles in seven hours walk

Our annual fundraising sponsored walk took place on Sunday 2 July. 45 pupils and staff, including Headmaster, Grove du Toit, laced up their walking boots and took on the superhuman challenge of walking 24 miles in seven hours.

Lower Sixth students were walking for Mary's Meals, raising funds to support the College's commitment to feed pupils at Makalanga Primary School in Malawi. While Year 11 pupils walked for Bwengu Projects as part of their commitment to fundraise for the Malawi 2024 expedition.

First over the line were Head of Boys' Games, Joe Jackson and Lower Sixth Formers, Guy Dawkins and Will Harrison, who completed the trek in 7 hours and 49 minutes. They were followed home by a procession of weary but jubilant walkers. Together the walkers totted up a huge total of 948 miles. It was a truly herculean effort.



## Trinity Trips

01



01

### Pupils enjoyed plenty of super skiing in Val Di Fiemme

77 Year 10 pupils visited the traditional Italian ski resort of Val di Fiemme during the Easter holidays where the excellent conditions made for plenty of super skiing during their stay. Beginners, intermediates and advanced, all benefited from dedicated ski instructors who coached and fine-tuned their skills and took them out into the resort onto the wide choice of runs.

Princethorpe's downhillers were spoilt for choice and during the week progress was excellent, so much so that the final day's downhill races were hotly contested. The Princethorpe party had a spectacular time.

02

### French Study Trip to Montpellier

Year 9 and 10 pupils enjoyed a French study trip to Montpellier during the Easter holidays, getting to grips with the language while seeing all the sights. Their visit combined language lessons with sightseeing and activities, allowing pupils to put their developing language skills to good use.

In a busy cultural programme pupils explored the city, tried their hand at the traditional game of pétanque and enjoyed plenty of French food. It was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to experience the language and culture of France. Many thanks to all the staff involved in supporting the trip.

03

### Computer Science pupils visit the Centre for Computing History

In May, 43 Year 9 and 10 pupils visited the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. As part of the day the pupils took part in taught sessions on 'Controlling physical devices using Python code' and 'The Megaprocessor' that supported their GCSE Computer Science studies. They also had chance to look around the museum and to have hands on experience of a wide range of computers going back to the 1960s.

It was a really valuable experience that supported their studies but also gave them a deeper appreciation of the history of computing.

04

### Year 10 Geographers explore Shrewsbury and Carding Mill Valley

In May, 42 Year 10 Geography GCSE pupils set off for Preston Montford, to put into practise the field skills they have been studying in their lessons. The two-day trip supported the geographical investigations modules that pupils undertake within their Geography GCSE.

Pupils spent one day exploring human geography topics, investigating the impact of internet shopping and retail changes in the central business district of Shrewsbury. They also spent a day investigating physical geography topics in Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton. There they surveyed the rivers, undertaking measurements and investigating how river channel characteristics change and how they relate to flooding downstream.

04



## Trinity Trips

### 05 RS Trip to Stratford Literary Festival

Head of Religious Studies, Cyp Vella, took the Lower Sixth RS students to the Stratford Literary Festival in May to listen to a discussion about the existence of God between David Baddiel, a secular Jew, and Rev. Giles Fraser, a Church of England vicar.

It was an interesting and thought-provoking talk that was directly relevant to the A-level syllabus the students were studying. It provided plenty to debate further and supported students in evaluating the different arguments for the existence of God.



### 06 Year 7 explore Warwick Castle

Year 7 visited Warwick Castle in June to bring their studies of Medieval England to life. Originally built by William the Conqueror, the castle with its motte, portcullis, murder holes and battlements, provided the perfect backdrop to their History lessons allowing Year 7 to see and experience its defensive structures and understand its significance and impact on everyday medieval life.

Year 7 took part in a Medieval Battle Skills workshop finding out how weapons were used on the battlefield and the role of Warwick Castle in the Wars of the Roses.

It was a fantastic trip and everyone enjoyed the splendour of the castle and of course the 500+ step climb up and around the castle ramparts!



### 07 Year 8 explore The Battlefields of Belgium

Year 8 explored the Battlefields of World War One in June on a trip to Belgium to support their history studies. They had plenty to reflect on across the four days as the size of the cemeteries brought home the scale of the conflict.

They visited key sites including the German Langemark cemetery as well as the Allied cemeteries, including the Essex Farm Cemetery and Dressing Station and the Tyne Cot Cemetery, as well as taking time to explore the Memorial Museum at Passchendaele and the Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood Museum.

They also visited the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, the Ulster Tower and Lochnagar Crater as well as the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial and the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. The College was immensely proud of Robert and Lola who laid a wreath on behalf of us all at the evening's Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. It was a thoroughly thought provoking and informative trip for all.



### 08 Year 7 visit National Space Centre

29 pupils from Year 7 visited the National Space Centre in Leicester in June to recognise their effort and achievement in Science.

Their visit began with a live Science Show 'It Is Rocket Science' that looked at propulsion in space, with a good dose of Newton's Laws of Motion, explosions and fire thrown in too. Pupils then toured the galleries, completing a discovery trail on the solar system, comets and mathematics. Before taking part in a workshop titled 'Our Earth Under Threat' where they worked together in teams to assess the threat of an approaching asteroid.

Year 7 pupils also enjoyed the planetarium show, Astronaut Education. It was a great trip enjoyed by them all.





# Trinity Sport



## Year 7 pupils run for Warwickshire at the National Cross Country Championships

Two Princethorpe Year 7 pupils travelled to Prestwold Hall in Leicestershire to compete in the National Primary School and Year 7 Cross Country Championships. Representing Warwickshire, the runners faced a traditional undulating course and with average fields of over 100 runners in each race, pupils needed their wits about them as they pushed and jostled to gain positions at the start.

James Bostock was seventh home for the Warwickshire team while Alvin Wamala finished ninth for Warwickshire. It was fantastic to see the College represented at the UK National Championships. A huge well done to them both.



## Another super haul of medals at the ISA Midlands Athletics

Princethorpe celebrated after bringing home a huge haul of medals from the Independent Schools Association's Midlands Track and Field Athletics. The event took place at Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium in Leicester on Wednesday 3 May with College athletes joining competitors from across the Midlands region.

In a dominant display, Princethorpe's medal haul included 35 Gold medals, 14 Silvers and 11 Bronzes, an amazing achievement for the College's young athletes.

It was fantastic to see pupils performing to such a high standard of competition so early in the summer.



## Girls claim the Tour Cup in the return leg of the Hopbel Dutch Hockey Tour

The College was delighted to welcome Dutch hockey club, De Hopbel, to Princethorpe for the return leg of our long-standing exchange programme. This six-day tour, saw our visitors enjoy plenty sightseeing alongside all their hockey training and matches.

This year's tour saw 45 girls and boys enjoying life with their Princethorpe host families reciprocating the bonhomie and generosity our pupils received back in October 2022.

De Hopbel played a total of nine matches against various Princethorpe teams while they were with us, and the College was delighted that Princethorpe's girls were victorious this time round claiming back the coveted Tour Cup.



## Excellent results for college athletes at the Warwickshire Schools Athletics Combined Events

Princethorpe College's Junior Girls, Minor Girls and Inter Boys teams delivered top scoring performances to finish in first place at the Warwickshire Schools Combined Events Championships. Hot on their heels were the Inter Girls and Minor Boys whose determination led to third place finishes, with the Junior Boys coming in only one place behind, finishing in fourth overall. It was an excellent athletics outing for Princethorpe at the Warwickshire Schools Combined Events, at The Pingles Stadium, in Nuneaton.

After a very successful two days, Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, was thrilled with excellent early season results, commenting, "Princethorpe's athletes shone across all the disciplines delivering outstanding performances in both field and track events to help the College to a super set of results. Well done to them all."

## Trinity Sport

### U13 Girls win the Nottingham High Cricket Festival Cup

Princethorpe's U13A Girls Cricket team batted and bowled their hearts out at the Nottingham High Cricket Festival in May. In a superb performance, they won all their matches and took first place in the Cup competition. The festival was for Year 7 and 8 pupils with six schools taking part.

The girls were fantastic on the day with everyone playing their part, whether that be taking a wicket, catching the opposition out, hitting a six or showing strong communication and leadership skills throughout the tournament. Anabel Davis received the coach's player of the tournament award for bowling the best overs of the day and hitting a big six.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the teams to gain valuable match experience.



### Four tennis titles at the ISA Nationals

Princethorpe's boys took four titles at the ISA National Tennis Tournament at Rugby School in May. Princethorpe's pupils were runners up in a further event, took third place in another and also won a Sportsmanship Award, making for a very respectable performance from the College teams.

The results included: U13 National ISA Champion – Will Harvey (Year 8), U13 National ISA Plate Champion – Will Smith (Year 8), U13 National ISA Doubles Champions – Will Harvey and Will Smith, U13 National ISA Doubles Plate Champions – Angus Griffin (Year 8) and Noah Walker (Year 7), U15 National ISA 3rd place and Sportsmanship Award Winner – Henry Fox (Year 9), U15 National ISA Doubles Runners-Up – Will Gower (Year 10) and Alex Sykes (Year 9). Well played to all the pupils who took part.



### Pupils put in outstanding performances at Warwickshire Schools Athletics Championships

Pupils from Princethorpe College put in outstanding performances to win ten events at the Warwickshire Schools Athletics Championships helping the Eastern Area take both the Junior and Inter events. College athletes claimed a further five second place and six third place finishes. Grace McCollin was awarded the trophy for Best Girls Overall Performance at the Championships after setting a new County record in the 75m Hurdles and equalling the County record in the 100m. André Onyekwe set a new National Standard personal best jumping 1.95m in the Inter Boys High Jump.

In total, 21 College athletes took part in the competition that was held in Nuneaton, at the Pingles Athletics Track, on Saturday 10 June and an amazing 11 pupils were selected to represent Warwickshire in the Mason Trophy Inter-County competition at Northwood Stadium in Stoke.

Qualifying for the Mason Trophy Inter-County competition were: Mark Message - 800m, Hunter Staveley – Shot, Grace McCollin - 100m and 75m Hurdles, Penelope Jones - 75m Hurdles and Long Jump, Lauren Tebbatt – Javelin, Ben Smith - 1500m S/C, André Onyekwe - High Jump and Triple Jump, Olivia Monk - 100m and 200m, Evie Marston - 3000m, Kate Pomerleau - 1500m S/C and Lim Self - Triple Jump.



# Trinity Sport

## Success for Princethorpe at Inter-Schools National Two-Day Event

Princethorpe College hosted the National Schools and Riding Clubs Two-Day Event. Run in conjunction with Stoneleigh Riding Club, more than 200 competitors took part in the two-day competition, at the end of May.

Riding for Princethorpe in the new 70cm class were Sam Grindal, who claimed 1st place in the ISA event riding Mellow Marsh, while teammate Emilie Bell-Barth finished in 2nd place on Caramac.

Representing the College in the 80cm class were Rosie Moreton on Long Story Short. Rosie rode superbly to finish 2nd overall in the National Schools event and 1st overall in the ISA class. Teammate Lizzie Nichols placed 3rd on Tickety Boo in the ISA class.

In the 90cm class Rosie rode Ballyrush Harry and had another great round to finish 3rd overall, and 1st in the ISA class. Teammate, Lottie Paybody earned herself 3rd in the ISA event riding Laragh Cracker. Many congratulations to all the riders who took part.



## Princethorpe pupils represent the Midlands in the U13 ISFA Football Regional Festival

Two Year 8 pupils, Harry Messenger and Louis Reynolds, played for the Midlands team in the Independent Schools Football Association U13 Regional Football Festival. The tournament took place over the Easter holidays at Shrewsbury School.

Princethorpe's boys were pitched against representative teams from across nine UK regions.

Both boys played well and were thrilled to have represented the Midlands team. What a great experience for the boys.



## A Gold and a Bronze at the English Schools Athletics Nationals

Year 11 Ben Smith, Year 10, André Onyekwe, Year 10, Olivia Monk, Year 9, Grace McCollin and Year 9, Penelope Jones, competed for the Warwickshire Schools Team at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham in June. It was such a fantastic achievement for these pupils just to have been selected to compete at this national event, but to have five athletes reaching the standard was super exciting for us all here at Princethorpe College.



The young athletes competed in the Inter Boys 1500m Steeplechase, Inter Boys High Jump, Inter Girls 100m, Junior Girls 75m Hurdles and in a new event the Junior Girls Mixed Relay. Grace ran an outstanding race to claim the Gold medal in the 75m Hurdles while André soared over the bar to take Bronze in the High Jump. These young people really are up there with the top athletes in the country for their events. Many congratulations to them all.

## 12 medals for Princethorpe at The ISA National Athletics Championships

Princethorpe celebrated after bringing home a haul of 12 medals from the Independent Schools Association's National Track and Field Championships at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham in June. Princethorpe took a team of 18 athletes from Years 7 to 11. Princethorpe's medal haul included six Gold medals. Olivia Monk stormed down the track to win both the Year 10/11 100m and 200m Sprints. While Grace McCollin won the Year 8/9 75m Hurdles and took another Gold in the Year 8/9 200m Sprint. Issey Cleary won Gold in the Year 7 Girls Long Jump and Grace McCollin and Penelope Jones helped the Midlands Year 8/9 Girls' Relay team finish first in the 4x100m Relay competition claiming more Gold medals.

Penelope Jones also earned herself a Silver medal in the Year 8/9 100m Sprint and Ben Smith also claimed Silver in the Year 10/11 1500m. Issey Cleary and Lillibee Harris helped the Midlands Year 7 Girls' Relay team finish second in the 4x100m course for Silver.

Dami Ajagunna earned herself a Bronze medal in the Year 7 Javelin while Lauren Tebbatt took Bronze in the Year 8/9 Javelin and Martina Grace claimed a Bronze in the Year 10/11 1500m. A number of pupils only just missed out on medals after finishing in fourth place.

Well done to all the athletes for an excellent performance. They responded so well to the top-class competition they faced delivering a number of new personal bests.





# Sports Day

## More House victorious at College Sports Day

The College's annual Sports Day, which took place on Friday 16 June, was a fantastic morning of friendly, but fiercely competitive sport. Field and track events ran simultaneously, so the playing fields were action-packed from the moment the starting gun fired. College staff were kept busy measuring, timing and recording all the running, jumping and throwing taking place.

The temperatures were sizzling, and the performances were too, as pupils and staff cheered all the competitors on. Everyone was hoping that their House would be victorious but, in the end, it was More House who claimed victory for the second year on the trot.

Our very own Clare Baldings, aka Mrs White and Mrs Allen, were kept very busy announcing all the races and interviewing the winners, adding to the excitement of the event.

Foundation Director of Sport, Lee Cassell, said, "It was another super Sports Day with plenty of excellent performances and lots of new College records set. The atmosphere was incredible, pupils were very supportive of each other, appreciating every individual effort and there was very little in it at the end."





## Duke of Edinburgh



### Another successful year of Duke of Edinburgh endeavours.

In the Trinity Term pupils completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Expeditions.

Unaccompanied and self-sufficient, they trekked their way across Snowdonia (17 Gold), the Peak District (49 Silver) and the Cotswolds (95 Bronze), working together in teams to achieve their expedition objectives.

A huge part of life at Princethorpe, the awards provide pupils with the opportunity to get involved, explore new interests, discover talents and make new friends.

Will Bower, Head of Outdoor Education, said, "I am very proud that so many of Princethorpe's pupils embrace the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They take the opportunity to develop skills and try new experiences, pushing themselves both mentally and physically to live up to the College's ethos and be the best they can be and all with such commitment and enthusiasm."





# Duke of Edinburgh



## Old Princethorpians presented with Duke Of Edinburgh's Gold Award at Buckingham Palace

36 Old Princethorpians were invited to Buckingham Palace in London in May to be presented with their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. At his first award celebrations as the charity's Patron, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, a Gold Award achiever himself, congratulated all those that had completed this challenging award, commending them on their perseverance, creativity and resilience.

After his speech, the Duke met Award holders, including our very own OP Archie Hancock (Class of 2022), hearing about the positive impact their DofE experience has had on them.

### Receiving their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award in ceremonies were:

Ellie Partridge, Will Dunderdale, Luke Brotherton, Luke Palmer, Josh Whitby, George Saunders, Will Crowfoot, Tom Crowfoot, Henri Fuchss, James Walker, Angus Griffin, Will Marshall, Lauren Mason, Will McCormack, Eve Howard, Erin Darcy, Victoria Heritage, Ben Scares, Anthony Convey, Sam Warne, Jessie Crawford, Archie Hancock, Dan Wildey, Joe England, Louis Rodgers, Jack Collins, Ella Mason, Emily Scrivens, Ishbel Kempton, Tobias Lambe, Pablo Scopes, Elizabeth Boyes, Ed Foster, Zara Hendy, Laurel Arkesden and Erin Arriordaz.

## Princethorpe Celebrated Duke of Edinburgh's Award achievements

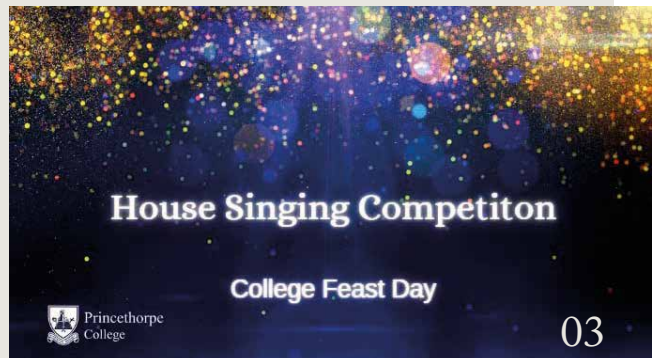
Over 300 pupils, parents, invited guests and staff gathered in February for the College's annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award Celebration Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on pupils' achievements in Outdoor Education. The College was delighted to welcome special guest and Adventure Athlete, Darren Grigas, who spoke to pupils about the challenges and joys of completing trips as a world adventurer. Across the evening, pupils were presented with their Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Certificates to mark the completion of their Awards.







## House News



### 01 Sixth Form Ready Steady Cook

Princethorpe's Sixth Form students put their culinary skills under the spotlight in the popular House competition, Ready Steady Cook. Teams of Sixth Formers enthusiastically took part, preparing a student staple, an omelette, in the Food Technology suite.

The students were presented with a set of ingredients and challenged to produce their omelette in just 12 minutes. There were knives chopping, whisks stirring and pans sizzling as the House teams went to work. The results were close with just a few points separating all the Houses. First place went to Benet, closely followed by More and then Austin and Fisher.

### 02 Squad 7 win this year's sensational House Talent Show

Much anticipated and always hotly contested, the House Talent Show did not disappoint providing yet another sensational evening of entertainment for the College community and a real conundrum for the judges facing the almost impossible challenge of choosing the winner.

Compered by House Activities Leader, Jess Newborough, the show included an array of dazzling dance routines, stunning instrumental and vocal solos and fabulous bands. After the serious acts had performed, the audience had the pleasure of a special, surprise act, the House Captains' Band, singing and playing *Valerie*, originally by The Zutons.

This year's winners were Squad 7 a Year 7 contemporary dance troupe comprising of Josie Friend, Annabel Hetherington, Mimi Legge, Orla McDonagh and Millie Nealon. A huge well done to them and to all the performers, it really was a sensational House Talent Show.

### 03 Benet and More win House Singing

The House Singing Competition did not disappoint, with spirited renditions of some all-time favourites in the Sports Hall in December on the College's Feast Day. Austin gave a rousing performance of *I Want It That Way*, Fisher harmonised with *Uptown Girl*, More entertained us with *I'm A Believer* and Benet belted out *Reach For The Stars*.

The Lower School, Years 7-10, went first with the Upper School, Year 11 and Sixth Form, in the second round. There was much rivalry but there can only be one winner... and this year for the Lower School Benet stole the show while for the older years it was More who brought the house down.

## House News

### 04 Magnificent More are victorious in the House Cup

More House celebrated after winning the most hotly contested competition in school, the House Cup. Their victory was announced by House Activities Leader, Jess Newborough, in the Prefect Inauguration ceremony at the end of the Lent Term. The House Cup was presented to the outgoing More House Captains, Evie Phillips and Lara Tripp-Smith, and More House Activities Co-ordinator, Meg O'Gorman, as jubilant More pupils cheered across the school.

Before announcing the result, Mrs Newborough shared some of her highlights of the year, speaking of her delight at how Princethorpe pupils respond and the camaraderie and sense of community that the House activities provides. She spoke of the importance of taking part, of standing up to be counted, reminding us all that whether it is the regular weekly fun of the Friday quizzes or the big events such as House Activities Day, every single point counts.



### 05 House Bake Off has a literary theme

House Bake Off was, as always, a popular competition with a tantalising display of 30 creative entries lined up for the judges in the College's Food and Nutrition Room. The 'Literary' theme produced an incredible array of 'book' themed bakes with *Harry Potter*, *The Hobbit* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* featuring among the designs.

Mrs Newborough and Ms Scott took on the arduous job of judging all the entries, supported by Mr Cowlshaw and Mrs Sharpe, they considered taste, decoration and relevance to the theme. Staff and pupils crowded in at break time to choose their favourites too. Well done to everyone who took part."



### 06 House Activities Day

Princethorpe pupils ventured off around our wonderful earth in a series of themed activities for House Activities Day. The biggest event of the House year, and always a real favourite with pupils who go all out to win the house points up for grabs.

Whether taking on the Yetis in the Himalayan Glacier Challenge on the Close, recreating Our Colourful Planet in Art, creating water purifying systems out on the North Lawn, following in the footsteps of dinosaurs around the Mile Walk, enjoying an Under The Sea roller disco in the Sports Hall, working as a pack in The Hunt on the Astro, setting up a small holding in the Good Life, reliving the magic of David Attenborough's iconic nature films or taking on Mr Cowlshaw and Mr Spencer's Taskmaster challenges, it really was a non-stop day full of fantastic fun.

A huge well done to everyone for taking part and an absolutely massive thank you to those who made the day possible especially House Activities Leader, Jess Newborough, the House Activities Co-ordinators, Ellie Callan, Hannah Carminati, Berenice Galano and Meg O'Gorman and our stalwart Sixth Form House Captains who all worked so hard to make House Activities Day so much fun.





# Chaplaincy



## 01 Change is Chaplaincy Theme for the year

Father Alan Whelan, MSC, introduced 'Change' as the Chaplaincy's theme for the year in the whole school Eucharist in September. He reminded the school that change is all around us, that we should embrace change, as it is only through change that we grow. Pupils were asked to consider what change they could make to be kind to others, recording their individual thoughts on a card.

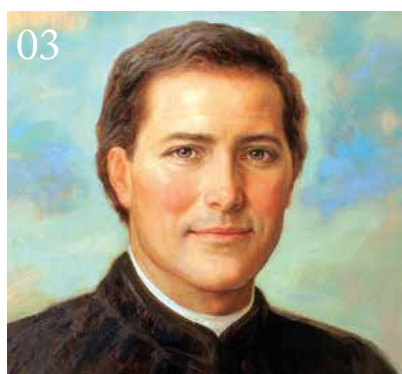
Those cards were put on display, just outside the Chapel, around a wooden silhouette of an oak tree. They acted as a powerful visual reminder to us all that 'Change' is a part of life and to embrace change is to grow, just like the acorn grows into the oak tree.



## 02 Poppies symbolise college's reflections on Remembrance

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

Year 7 pupils, Merryn Cleary, Lottie Corbin, Hattie Godfrey, Chloe Sarkies and Ro Somerset, cut out over 1,000 poppies, enough for every member of the school community. Form Tutors shared the poppies with their Tutor groups and encouraged pupils to record their remembrances, personalising the poppies with their dedications and messages. The poppies were then assembled into a prominent and impressive display.



## 03 College Feast Day

The College's Feast Day took place on Thursday 8 December. The annual celebration involving the whole of the College community, marks the day back in 1854 that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were founded.

Feast Day is an important day in the Princethorpe calendar, one where we all take time to give thanks to our community's founders and celebrate Princethorpe's special ethos and spirit of family. Father Alan Whelan MSC opened the proceedings reminding us all that Feast Days are about giving thanks, he explained that the day is an important day for all Roman Catholics, as it is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As part of the celebrations, the school came together at lunchtime to hand out awards to pupils receiving House Prizes and the assembly also included a number of musical interludes.



## 04 Princethorpe College celebrates Easter Eucharist

Princethorpe College came together in April to celebrate a School Eucharist. Pupils and staff gave thanks as we began the Trinity Term and remembered that the gift of Easter is one of 'new life' and of 'the Resurrection of Jesus'. The community listened to readings from the Easter story and the Resurrection and joined together in prayers.

As part of the service the Junior Ethos Prefects were presented with their badges by the Headmaster.



## PTA News

### Plenty of festive fun at the PTA Christmas Fair

Princethorpe's popular PTA Christmas Fair took place on Sunday 27 November marking the start of the festive season. Hundreds of visitors descended on a College resplendent in decorations. Father Christmas and his elves made their usual stop off at the Fair and the crowds enjoyed musical entertainment, hot drinks, mince pies and plenty of festive fun.



### PTA Summer Fête was a great success

The College's annual Summer Fête and Motoring Festival in June was a delightful afternoon. The Orchard was transformed thanks to plenty of enthusiasm, gazebos and bunting and the British weather delivered, allowing organisers and visitors to relax and enjoy themselves and their ice creams. An array of stalls offered all sorts of entertainment, goods and services, including homemade food, arts and crafts, gifts, fundraising activities, tombolas and so much more. While at the bottom of the Orchard there was line upon line of classic and unusual cars on show.





# Achievers Celebrations

## Achievers lunches recognise pupils' contributions

**Every term pupils from across the school are invited to a celebration lunch to recognise and reward their commitment both inside and outside of school to live up to the challenge of the College's ethos.**

Nominated by members of staff, the pupils had all been kind and tried their best; some had excelled or showed commitment to sport, performing arts, charity work or academic studies, whilst others had gone over and above for their House or Tutor group. All were an outstanding example for their peers.

	Michaelmas Achievers	Lent Achievers	Trinity Term Achievers
<b>Year 7</b>	Stephanie Bolton, Issey Cleary, Lillibee Harris and Stephanie Perkins	Issey Cleary, Katie Dodd, Ellie Hughes, Evie Johnson, Grace Johnson, John Owen, Elena Raiseborough, Lucas Ross, Ro Somerset and Eve Worthington	Charlie Leech, Leila Lintell, Orla McDonagh, Olly Moore, Charles Packe, Elena Raiseborough and Henry Sims
<b>Year 8</b>	George Fry, Charlotte Gower, Faith Katanda, William Long, Amy Robinson and Tara Rodgers	Betsy Burgess, Noah Cowlshaw, Harry Messenger, Isaac Nelson, Jasper Nicholls, Louis Reynolds, Clea Roach, Amy Robinson, William Smith and Darcey Wolsey	Sam Grindal, William Long, Jay Patil, Ayla Plumb, Tara Rodgers and Georgie Sowter
<b>Year 9</b>	Henry Fox, Ariana Gray, Alexa Holland, Euan Nelson, Rosie Moreton, Noah Nix, Jorja Parris, Mia Petrucci, Sam Beaman-Henderson and Lily Carroll	Joshua Baker, Kathryn Flegg, Henry Fox, Sophie Gambling, Sophie Henry, Conor Horan, Lily Hunter, Annabel Leigh, Grace McCollin, Daniel Ovens Gibbs, Annabelle Ritson, Zach Rose, Jess Sarkies, Annabel Slinger, Hunter Staveley, Dan Tomlinson, Bella Ward and James Wright	Charlie Atkins, Ollie Camargo-Jones, Kathryn Flegg, Ariana Gray, Josh Harris, Lily Hunter, Penelope Jones, Grace McCollin, Kyla-Mae Milestone, Daniel Ovens Gibbs, Jorja Parris, Mia Petrucci, Hunter Staveley, Lauren Tebbatt, Dan Tomlinson, Agnes Toone and Bella Ward
<b>Year 10</b>	Martina Grace, Harrison Guest, André Onyekwe and Emmanuel Simon	Lucy Basford, Adam Chambers, Amelia Du Toit, Jesse Esler, Martha Harris, Zach Hawkins, Ignacy Librowski, Evie Marston, Olivia Monk, Matilda Palmer and Cara Ridd	Oscar Civzelis, Jesse Esler, Emily Evans, Freddie Knott, Alex Lawrence, Ignacy Librowski, Olivia Monk, Sophie Nicolle, André Onyekwe, Emmi Parmenter, Max Phillips-Gore, Anna Powers, Lim Self and Eleanor Thomas
<b>Year 11</b>	Jayden Carr, Isaac Fountaine, Louise Gambling, Charlotte Gledhill, Chloe Henderson, Lottie Hunter, David Ikuomola, Hamish O'Brien, Zack Oldfield, Lampros Papadogiannakis, Mia Samra, Oscar Tebbatt, Jemima Teeton and Tom Windley	Felix Batty, Sammie Borland, Raul Camargo-Jones, Alastair Clifford, Ollie Farquharson, Ava Farren, Jack Fleming, Freddie Hadley, Ollie Hutton, Ida Kelley, Joel Nicoll, Kate Pomerleau, Harriet Sharpe, Emily Slinger, Ben Smith, Jemima Teeton, Matty Thomas and Sam Verity	Sophie Glover, Claudia Newman and Archy Walker
<b>Lower Sixth</b>	Will Antrobus, Mary-Ellen Boyle, Kiran Clark, Alex Flegg, Sophie Gray, Noah Kemp, Joseph Newborough, Connor Silvester, Zara Simpson and Alice Whittaker	Lauren Bach, Toby Convey, Grace Darcy, Jess Evans, Tom Lomas, Joseph Newborough, Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey, Emma Sarkies, Zara Simpson, Natasha Thomas and George Wild	Lara Cutri, Alex Flegg, Charlotte Frost, Darcey Heritage, Eloise Keil, Dom Lee, Tom Lomas, Joseph Newborough, Chloe O'Carroll-Bailey and Emma Sarkies
<b>Upper Sixth</b>	Erin Arriordaz, Joe Glover, Harry Hewitt, Keira MacRae, Dylan Morgan Smith, Eleanor Page, Oscar Page, Evie Phillips, Pratheesh Prabakaran, Evan Ridd, Wilf Sansum, Edward Sharpe, Jack Tripp-Smith and Samuel Tubb	Joshua Apaya, William Gibson-Sexton, Keira MacRae, Oscar Page, Wilf Sansum, Edward Sharpe and Emma Thomas	

## Results Day



### Princethorpe College celebrated another year of excellent exam results

**In the Sixth Form, 112 students sat A-level and BTEC examinations and completed the Extended Project Qualification this summer. In one of our strongest years to date, 70% of all grades were A\*- B, with more than a third being A\*- A. Impressively, 17 high-flyers achieved three or more A\* or A grades.**

At GCSE Princethorpe pupils also performed well, from a cohort of 159 pupils, 42% of all entries were the coveted 9, 8 or 7 grades, with 16 pupils achieving all 9, 8 or 7 grades.

Grove du Toit, Headmaster, commented, "We were delighted with the excellent results that our Sixth Form students and Year 11 pupils achieved against a backdrop of unprecedented challenges over the last few years. Their results reflect their hard work and perseverance, all credit goes to our pupils and staff for their commitment, collaboration and hard work."

He continued, "We are proud of their academic achievements, but all these pupils have many other fine qualities: kindness, respect and a strong sense of right and wrong, which will be tremendously important for them as they move on to the next phase of their lives. We congratulate them all on their well-deserved success."

**“We were delighted with the excellent results that our Sixth Form students and Year 11 pupils achieved.”**



## Old Princethorpians



### OPs sweep the board at annual Sports Day

It was fantastic to have the OPs vs College Sports Day back in full swing and to welcome so many familiar faces to school at the start of the academic year.

The Staff Football Team started the morning in good spirits and the result - a resounding victory for the younger OPs team - did not reflect the quality of the game. With the College Girls away at a tournament, all hockey attention was focused on the Boys' match, with the OPs taking the honours in a highly entertaining game. In the Netball, the OPs showed their experience and quality on the court with a high scoring performance against the College team. The OPs v College 1st XV John Shinkwin Trophy match produced the closest score line for years, with the OPs (leavers of 2021 and 2022) winning by just two points!

At the After Match Awards, the OPs proudly raised both the Alex Wallis Memorial Shield and the John Shinkwin Cup.



### OP London Meet draws a record crowd

The OPs' London Meet at the Marquess of Anglesey in Covent Garden drew a record crowd of nearly 60 OPs from across the decades who braved the unseasonal cold and rainy conditions to attend.

Now a well-established event in the calendar, many of the attendees were regulars, though it was lovely to see a fair few new faces too. There was representation from as early as the 1970s, the 1980s and the early 2000s, and there were a large contingent of younger OPs from 2012 onwards.

Headmaster, Ed Hester and teachers, Alex Darkes, Fr Teddy O'Brien and Tracey Hester enjoyed catching up with their past pupils, and as ever it was a delight to see the OPs of all ages networking, swapping stories and catching up.



### Great turnout for OPs Leamington Meet

We had a great turn out of OPs and current and former members of staff at the Leamington Pub Meet on Friday 10 March. There were alumni from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s and 10s in attendance, along with Princethorpe legends, Mr Darkes, Mr Griffin, Mr Hester, Mr McCullough, Mrs McCullough, Mr McCollin, Mr Moroney, Mr Price and Mr White.

The meet, at The Royal Pug, was a jovial evening for all concerned, who delighted catching up and swapping stories over a delicious spread and a drink or two. It was also a great opportunity for the OPs to meet new Headmaster, Mr du Toit.

## Old Princethorpians



### OPs enjoy preview of new Science Centre

In May, it was wonderful to host a large group of interested OPs, former staff and parents at our OPs Science Centre Preview and Brunch. The group, who were warmly welcomed by Foundation Principal, Ed Hester, enjoyed a delicious brunch in the Refectory before setting off in three groups to be ably toured round the construction site by Architect, Tony Pugh, Project Manager, Alex Darkes and Deputy Head (Academic), Michael Spencer.

Contractors were hard at work while the parties toured the two floors, taking in the ten laboratories, break out area, prep rooms and staff bases. All were suitably impressed by the progress including the space, facilities, views and the positive impact the Science Centre would have on other areas of the campus.



### OPs welcomed back to Summer Supper Reunion 2023

Representatives from the classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013 returned for their respective 50th, 40th, 30th, 20th and 10th anniversaries of leaving, along with a smattering of OPs from other years and former and current staff.

The evening started with an optional tour of school led by Alex Darkes and Eddie Tolcher. The large group meandered excitedly around the campus, visiting areas such as the Chapel, the Library, the Cloister Corridors, Roundhouse, the newer Limes Building and Sixth Form Centre before venturing out to see the new Science Centre.

After a glass or two of Pimms in the Quad, the group was warmly welcomed by Foundation Principal, Ed Hester and invited to take their seats in the Refectory. Fr Alan Whelan, MSC, said Grace and the refectory became a hubbub of chatter and laughter as, sat in their year groups or decades, the gathered OPs happily caught up and reminisced over a delicious three course meal.



### The Piranhas held a commemorative match for Mike

The College's staff cricket team, The Piranhas, marked Mike Taylor, Head of Geography's, retirement after 42 years at the College with a special commemorative match on Friday 30 June against former members of staff.

The new Piranhas vs the old Piranhas match was masterminded by Assistant Head, Co-Curricular, Neil McCollin and former Head of Biology and Games stalwart, Bernie Moroney.

It was fantastic to see so many former members of staff returning for the match, either to play or to lend their support, those returning included: Paul Adams, Jonny Allen, Debs Brookes, Peter Griffin, John Harwood, Mick Kitteridge, Ed MacFetridge, Colin Morgan, Bernie Moroney, Nathan Reynolds, Barbara and Lou Skiffington and last but by no means least, Rob Startin.

It was a fantastic evening and so lovely to have so many former staff come back to celebrate Mike's long tenure at the College.



## Science Centre

### September

#### Halfway point reached in new Science Centre project

By September 2022 and thanks to the hard work of the construction team and plenty of fine weather, work on Princethorpe's new Science Centre was making great progress. The project had reached week 26 of the build and was halfway through.



### October

#### Princethorpe pupils bury time capsule under the new Science Centre

Interesting artefacts, objects and articles that reflect modern day life, along with letters to the future from Year 7 pupils, were placed in a time capsule and buried under the entrance to the College's new Science Centre for future pupils of the school to find.



### November

#### New Science Centre taking shape

By November and Week 38 of the build, work on the roof was almost complete with most of the tiles in place and the building was really starting to take shape. The first fix of the electrical and mechanical works was well underway.



### December

#### Topping out ceremony marks construction milestone

Pupils, staff and trustees celebrated the topping out of the new Science Centre in December. Headmaster, Ed Hester, donned a hi-vis jacket and hard hat and scaled the heights of the new building for the traditional ceremony.



### January

#### Noah Walker won the STEAM Scientist Competition

Princethorpe College's STEAM Scientist competition attracted plenty of entries and Dan Lee, Head of Physics and STEAM Co-ordinator, and the Sixth Form STEAM Ambassadors, Joseph Newborough and Emma Sarkies, chose Year 7 Noah Walker as the winner of the competition.



## Science Centre

### February

#### New Headmaster impressed with progress of Science Centre

As the construction of Princethorpe's Science Centre approached its one-year milestone, new Headmaster, Grove du Toit, visited the site for the first time to check on progress. Mr du Toit was taken on a tour of the new building exploring the laboratories across both floors



### March

#### Science staff visit new Science Centre

In March some of the Science staff had their first chance to visit Princethorpe's Science Centre. It was a great opportunity for them to get a feel for the new facilities and to see how the construction work was progressing.



### May

#### New Science Centre making great progress

By May, the internal partition walls were in place and the flooring was down. All the doors had also been fitted. The downstairs labs had much of their furniture in place. The mechanical and engineering work was well advanced. The lift was in and the plant rooms were nearing completion.



### June

#### Science Ambassadors first to open the doors to new Science Centre

Another key milestone was reached when the internal connecting doors between The Limes and the Science Centre were put in place. Princethorpe's new Science Ambassadors were the first lucky pupils to open the doors to the new building when they posed for a celebratory photo just before Open Evening on Wednesday 7 June.



### July

#### College's new Science Centre is now nearly complete

As we came to the end of the academic year we were also rapidly heading towards the completion of the College's Science Centre. In the ten new laboratories the finishing touches were being put in place. Outside the scaffolding was down and landscaping continued.





## Staff hellos and goodbyes

**Princethorpe is very lucky to have an incredible staff who are dedicated and who genuinely care about our pupils. Out thanks go to every colleague who has contributed to making this year a success.**

### During the 2022/23 school year:

#### We welcomed:

Claire Alcock, Isabel Arevalo, Emilie Bergerat, Anthony Bocking, Aimee Brookes, Sally Chadwick, Evan Collis, Grove du Toit, Molly Geehan, Harriet Hallam, Alan Harris, Milly Hemmings, Marie Holt, Madeleine Hughes, Joe Jackson, Megan McDonagh, Edward Musson, Georgia Newborough, Claire Phillips-Gore, Katie Strange, Gabor Toth, Nicola Treadwell, Sarah Tsang, Harry Walters, Josie Wheel and Neil Wotton.

#### And we said goodbye to:

Isabel Arevalo, Katie Boon, Peter Bucknall, Eleanor Cullen, Loretta Curtis, Adam Depledge, Shellagh Dodds, Mike Fletcher, Frank Gahan, Molly Geehan, Caroline Hardware, Ross Holtom, Kate Ingram, Rod Isaacs, Anna Jelec, Chris Kerrigan, Jen Law, Catherine Lewis, Ryan McCann, Caroline McGrory, Georgia Newborough, Kate Parsons, Miranda Porter, Paul Reay, Nathan Reynolds, Vaneesa Rooney, Julie Satchwell, Julie Shorten, Mike Taylor and Mike Tideswell.

At the end of the year we said goodbye to three members of staff who could quite rightly be regarded as Princethorpe legends. 1981 was well before most of the current Princethorpe community was born. This was the year Mike Taylor joined the Geography Department and since then he has faithfully served the school for an unbelievable 42 years. As he retired, we know all will join us in wishing him nothing but rest, relaxation, and fond memories. His dry wit and cricketing skills will be much missed by us all.

Also moving on this summer was our highly regarded Head of English, Chris Kerrigan. His impact on countless students in English is hard to measure and the messages of gratitude and admiration that have made their way back to Princethorpe is testament to how big a hole he leaves. We wished him all the best as he laid down his chalk for the final time.

Sixth Form Assistant Head, Rod Isaacs has always been a real stalwart in leading charity projects at Princethorpe. Many of our pupils and parents will have been touched by the work he did or broken by the very long walks for charity he organised. Either way, his leaving to join Ten Ten was a big loss to the College, and we wished him the very best.

In the Sports department, Jen Law moved on to take up the role of Assistant Director of Sport at St Edward's School in Oxford, while Ross Holtom moved to Foxford Community School as BTEC Standards and Progress Lead. We also said goodbye to Adam Depledge who moved to The National Maths and Science College as Head of Computer Science, Kate Parsons who left to join Bablake as their Head of MFL and bade farewell to Miranda Porter who went off to pursue ventures outside of the teaching profession.

Popular peripatetic LAMDA teacher Chris Carpenter departed back in December. Chris started working for St Joseph's (now Crackley Hall) in 1998 before joining Princethorpe College in 2001 as a teacher of Drama and English, she returned for a second stint at Princethorpe as a LAMDA peripatetic teacher in 2014. Many were lucky enough to benefit from her skills.



Our Graduate Teaching Assistants came to the end of their year at Princethorpe and we wished Izzy Arevalo and Georgia Newborough the very best with their new endeavours. In Learning Support, we said farewell to Caroline Hardware and Anna Jelec who have helped countless pupils throughout their time at Princethorpe.

A number of non-teaching staff also made their farewells during the year, Julie Shorten (Receptionist), Julie Satchwell (Student Support Manager), Katie Boon (Pastoral Secretary), Paul Reay (IT Engineer), Catherine Lewis (Archivist) and Loretta Curtis (Development Assistant and former Registrar) all left. They all made such a difference as colleagues who ensure the wheels turn behind the scenes and they went with our very best wishes. We also said goodbye to Vanessa Rooney, our Registrar, who departed after seven years of unstinting service delivering an excellent admissions experience.

**A huge thank you to all our leavers for all they have done at Princethorpe.**

# Headmaster



## College community celebrated Mr Hester's thirteen years as Headmaster

**Pupils, staff, trustees, parents and friends of Princethorpe College celebrated and gave thanks at the end of the Michaelmas Term for outgoing Headmaster, Ed Hester's, thirteen-year tenure at the College.**



Over his time in office Mr Hester had driven many significant milestones and developments at the College and indeed the wider Foundation, which now comprises Crackley Hall School and Little Crackers Nursery in Kenilworth and Crescent School in Rugby. The school has grown from 762 pupils and five form entry in 2009 to six or seven form entry and around 930 pupils today, its optimum size. Thanks to Mr Hester and the team he built around him, the College has grown in credibility and stature over the last thirteen years and is now a 'first choice' school for many families.

At a surprise event for Mr Hester, invited guests took a look back at some of the highlights and developments of his headship including successful mergers with Abbotsford School and Crescent School, the College's ethos and its links with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, excellent ISI Inspections, membership of the prestigious Headmasters and Headmistresses' Conference, significant campus developments, the College's Golden Jubilee celebrations and the handling of the Covid pandemic.

The event also celebrated academic, pastoral and co-curricular success and achievements at the College and the central part Mr Hester has played in this over the years. From his enthusiastic involvement in many academic, musical, charity and house events from results day and jazz band to welly wanging and abseiling down the iconic Tower.

At the final assembly of the Michaelmas term Mr Hester was presented with a cut glass tankard by the pupil body and a commemorative book signed by all the pupils. One last surprise was in store when the whole Princethorpe community launched into a rousing rendition of *ABBA's Dancing Queen*, dedicated to the 'Greatest Edmund we've ever seen!' For once Mr Hester was lost for words.

We thanked Mr Hester for his outstanding leadership, dedication and contribution to the success of the College and Foundation to date and wish him good luck in his new exciting role as Foundation Principal.



## Grove du Toit takes on Headship of Princethorpe College

**Grove du Toit took on the Headship of Princethorpe College with effect from January 2023. He succeeded outgoing Headmaster, Ed Hester.**



Commented, Grove du Toit, "I am excited and honoured to take on the Headship of Princethorpe College and lead the school into the next stage of its development, building on the excellent work of Ed Hester. I recognise and fully appreciate what a special community Princethorpe is and upholding its ethos and spirit of family will be central to my role. I look forward to immersing myself in school life and building relationships with staff, parents and pupils alike."





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