

# Varndean

College Brighton & Hove

## UPDATE



**TRIPS**



**THEATRE**



**SUCCESS  
STORIES**



FOLLOWING ON FROM THEIR TRIP TO THE CASS FOUNDATION SCULPTURE PARK IN GOODWOOD (HOME TO AN EVER-CHANGING DISPLAY OF 80 MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES - SEE BELOW), **A2 3D DESIGN STUDENTS** WENT ON TO VISIT LITTLEHAMPTON SEAFRONT TO SEE THE LONG BENCH AND THE EAST BEACH CAFE DESIGN BY THOMAS HEATHERWICK IN 2007, WHICH HAS WON OVER 20 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING. THE ORIGINAL INSPIRATION FOR THE DESIGN WAS A PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD, THOUGH IT REFERENCES MANY NATURAL SHAPES OF THE COAST INCLUDING SAND DUNES, WAVES, ROCKS AND SHELLS.

## **BTEC ART & DESIGN STUDENTS VISIT CASS SCULPTURE FOUNDATION**

Students studying BTEC Certificate in Art and Design visited the Cass Sculpture Foundation at Goodwood back in October. They are pictured here with a sculpture called 'Host'. In 'Host', Peter Burke elected to produce a horizontal work composed of a number of human scale verticals that would follow the undulations of the land on which it would be displayed, rather than to try and impose a large vertical presence in competition with the surrounding landscape. The resulting 40 figures have a raw physicality that demonstrates their means of construction and are arranged to be viewed collectively emerging from the landscape.





## VARNDEAN COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIP EVENT – TUESDAY 8 MARCH

With the support of Inspiring Futures, the college hosted this exciting event where 24 local employers and training providers talked with students about employment opportunities. A wide range of job sectors were represented including accountancy, engineering, childcare, social care, construction, education, and sport; some had vacancies for students leaving this summer. Our students were able to ask about how to apply, entry requirements, salaries, training options and more. In order to spread the word, pupils from local secondary schools Dorothy Stringer and Varndean School were invited to help them with decisions about their futures too.

Apprenticeship ambassadors from the local council were also there to give first hand advice on what doing an apprenticeship is really like.

## VARNDEAN 3D DESIGN STUDENTS ASSIST IN DESIGN COMPETITION

Just before half term 3D Design A2 students Josh Barker and Corrina Lin assisted in a 3D design/3D printing competition set by GDST Schools which was to create a solution for Water Aid. Varndean College was asked to provide support and both Josh & Corrina worked superbly with the students (aged 11-16), helping them turn their design drawings into 3D CAD models so that they could in turn be printed. They shared their expertise with the younger students and were fantastic representatives of 3D Design and Varndean College. It was a great afternoon and both students gave up their time for which the college and schools were extremely grateful for. Copies of their 3D prints will be available after Easter.



## AS GRAPHICS STUDENTS' NEW PROJECT

In November, AS Graphics students started a new and exciting project designing the graphics for the forthcoming Breaking Boundaries dance show. To get the project off to a flying start they went on a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum to see the Drama Gallery there where there was an exciting show with original drawings for set designs and strange props and costumes. To complement the V&A they also visited the Serpentine Gallery where they were nearly the first people to see the Michael Craig Martin exhibition which literally opened on the day of the visit.



## FILM PRODUCTION SUCCESS

Three Varndean Film students successfully took part in a Film Academy series of weekend production workshops leading to the realisation of two short films. Students were taught how to direct professional actors, design and light sets, record sound and edit a short film. The excellent products of their labours were screened at the Duke of York's cinema on 28th February. The event was run by Brighton Film School and funded by the British Film Institute.

Pictured above at the Duke of York Picturehouse are; in centre - Lotta-Maija Nurmela (screenwriter and sound recordist), Ella Wood (director), and course tutors Anna Deamer and Eva Riley. Aleena Keith was also responsible for art design.

## ILLUSTRATION AWARDS VISIT

Varndean Graphic Design students went to London in October to see the AOL Illustration Awards at Somerset House. Little did they know until they got there that one of the prize winners was Owen Davey who was a Varndean Graphic Design student himself from 2003-2005.



Above is one of Owen's two winning pieces of work



## VARNDEAN STUDENT ELLA WOOD PRODUCES ONE OF THE THREE BEST SHORT FILMS OF 2015

Ella Wood, currently studying Film Studies, Business Studies and Law at Varndean College, has had her film 'Escape' nominated as one of the three best short films of 2015. Her film was shown at the Moving Image Awards 2015 which were held at the British Film Institute on Friday December 11th. Over 700 entries were received for this award category.

Ella created 'Escape' in early March 2015 for her Film Studies AS Level. The short film follows a young girl who is running and trying to escape and it was subsequently entered into

the WJEC/BFI Moving Image Awards 2015. These awards are run every year with 5 categories.

Ella says of her achievement: "I was so thrilled to find out that my film was shortlisted in the final 3 for Best Short Film and I'm more than happy for it just to have got this far out of so many that

were entered! It was also a fantastic experience coming to the awards and meeting fellow film makers and producers."

**The film can be found at:**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB0b-D1DbJw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB0b-D1DbJw)





## BTEC LEVEL 3 CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION 'INTERFERENCE'

During the Autumn term, students in their second year of the Level 3 Creative Media Production course undertook the project of planning, casting and shooting the short psychological thriller 'Interference'. Working as a professional production team entitled Aurora Productions, the Creative Media group collaborated with Level 3

Performing Arts students in the creation of a tense and edgy film about a student experiencing inexplicable events after a recent bereavement. The team worked throughout as a professional film crew, culminating in an all day shoot at a unique location situated on Shoreham seafont.

Bryony Morgan, Cinematographer

for Aurora Productions said about the shoot day "We achieved some impressive shots and witnessed some talented acting, it made me very proud of how dedicated the team were. It was a very long day and I was exhausted by the end of it, but I couldn't help thinking how I'd love to be doing this for the rest of my life."

### CALEB YULE (A CURRENT VARDEAN A2 PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT) HAS BEEN AWARDED YOUTH URBAN VIEW WINNER IN THE LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.

Landscape Photographer of the Year was founded in 2006 by Charlie Waite, one of today's most respected landscape photographers. With a total prize fund worth £20,000, a full colour book of best entries and a popular annual exhibition

in Central London, Landscape Photographer of the Year celebrates all that is great about the British landscape and showcases the work of many talented photographers. Awards are presented to both the adult and young and there are four main categories with additional prizes offered within each category.

The annual exhibition, held at London Waterloo Station, is the focal point for many of the quarter of a million visitors and tourist that pass through the station each day.



Above: Caleb's winning photo



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MUSIC STUDENTS, JO FRASER AND HER TEAM WHO ENTERTAINED AN APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE BACK IN DECEMBER WITH A HEART-WARMING CHRISTMAS CONCERT. THERE WAS AN IMPRESSIVE RANGE OF MUSIC TALENT FROM ACROSS THE COLLEGE, RANGING FROM SOLO PIANO, FOLK (AND UKULELE) TO FULL FUNK BAND ENSEMBLES. THE AUDIENCE WERE ALSO TREATED TO A ROUSING REPERTOIRE OF SINGING FROM THE VARNDEAN COMMUNITY CHOIR, LED BY JASON PIMBLETT. PERFECTLY TIMED AND WONDERFULLY COMPERED BY JO. RECOMMENDED FOR NEXT YEAR!



## DISNEYLAND, PARIS

During an exciting residential trip to sample the experiences of Disneyland Paris, Health & Social Care and Early Years students had the chance to design an attraction. Their group presentations impressed Disney seminar leaders with detailed ideas for: a sensory ride for people with physical impairments; a themed café for elderly people; a themed hotel for families; a play area for families with autistic children. It was a great opportunity to link theory to practice and also see how Disneyland Paris caters for people of all ages and needs.

## CAROLINE LUCAS MEETS POLITICS STUDENTS AT PARLIAMENT

Caroline Lucas took time out of her busy schedule to talk to Vardean College Politics students about life as an MP. As she spoke, Ms Lucas had to keep a close eye on the screen showing parliamentary proceedings. It was essential that Ms Lucas returned to the chamber before the start of an emergency debate on the operation of the Wilson Doctrine, otherwise she would not be able to question the government on this important issue. Later, during the debate, Caroline Lucas said, "We do not yet live in a surveillance state, and MPs have a right to expect that their communications, and those of the individuals they have been democratically elected to represent, should not be routinely

surveilled or intercepted".

The group of Politics students had already visited the Commons and Lords in session. In the Commons they saw David Cameron make a statement on the European Council meeting covering immigration, Syria and the re-negotiation of UK EU membership. Jeremy Corbyn made a robust response on the question of the EU, saying, "Working people in Britain are losing trust in a Government who attack their trade union rights and cut their tax credits, while giving tax breaks to millionaires. Will the Prime Minister today finally confirm to the House whether there will be an attempt to opt out of, or dilute, the social



chapter and the working time directive?"

Head of Politics, Avril MacKenzie-Parr, said, "This was a great opportunity for our new AS students to see government in action. As well as the visit to Parliament, students spent the morning at the Supreme Court, finding out about its constitutional role and sitting in on proceedings".



# THE WORLD PREMIERE OF 'NOTHING' AT GLYNDEBOURNE

In February, Vardean College Textiles student Rae Durgerian starred in the world premiere of 'Nothing', an opera based on the award-winning novel by Danish author Janne Teller. Members of Glyndebourne Youth Opera aged 14-19 performed alongside professional singers in the latest of a line of pioneering youth operas that have premiered on the main stage at Glyndebourne.

'Nothing' is the haunting story of a group of teenagers trying to convince their classmates that life has meaning. They decide that each of the group must give up an object that means something to them. This starts with toys and clothes, but things quickly escalate as the classmates go to ever more extreme lengths to try to persuade their friend there are things worth caring about.

Pictured here is Rae in her frog costume during rehearsals.

## COMING SOON

'Magnificent Myths and Tall Tales' - Vardean College Performance Arts BTEC students perform at Brighton Fringe's The Warren by St Peter's Church on Monday 23 May at 7.30pm. A showcase of stories, duets and short plays inspired by creation and heroic myths and urban tales





## FORMER COLLEGE FILM & MEDIA STUDIES TEACHER'S PUBLISHING SUCCESS

**B**ack in December, former Film and Media tutor Martin Sohn-Rethel announced the publication of his new book: 'Real to Reel' published by Auteur Press.

Martin taught Film & Media Studies at Varndean College from 1990 - 2013, but tragically was diagnosed with cancer following his retirement and sadly passed away on 21 January 2016. Martin was highly regarded by his students and led numerous British Film Industry workshops for both teachers and students, as well as programming the annual Cosmat Conference in Brighton for A Level Film & Media students since the mid-1990's.

"Real to Reel spans TV, film, theory and time to offer a rich overview of the concept of realism. The concept of realism is one of the most contentious and difficult to teach and Martin's major contribution is to review and re-evaluate existing perspectives and to reinvent and apply them in ways which are thought-provoking, original and highly-readable." Jenny Grahame, Media Consultant, Editor of Media Magazine

Martin is pictured above at the Duke of York's Cinema, Brighton, back in November with Clío Barnard, director of "The Selfish Giant" and one of the filmmakers mentioned in his book.



## FORMER STUDENT AND VARNDEAN STAFF MEMBER TOM TROTT WINS PRESTIGIOUS EMPIRE FILM AWARD

**T**om Trott, a former Varndean student and now one of our college IT Technicians, has recently been awarded the Empire Award in the 'Thriller' category of the 2015 New York Screenplay Contest.

The New York Screenplay Contest is a global screenwriting contest designed to launch careers and provide recognition and network opportunities to the world's best new voices in screenwriting for film and television. It awards and recognizes only the most finely written screenplays with distinction in four exclusive award tiers, Grand

Prize (1st Prize), The Empire Award (2nd Prize), The Park Avenue Award (3rd Prize) as well as up to 10 Official Finalists

Tom won his Empire Award for his screenplay 'Threshold', a thriller set in small-town America and posed with his award in one of the Film Studies rooms where he wrote his first-ever screenplay as part of his A Level Film Studies.

Tom has a television-pilot 'Daye's Work', currently in post-production, scheduled to be broadcast on Brighton's local TV channel in 2016.



## SUCCESS IN UK MATHS CHALLENGE

Pupils at Varndean College recently achieved 4 golds, 16 silver and 15 bronzes in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK entered, with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze.

Approximately 4,600 of the top students are then invited to sit one of the follow-on competitions, the British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO1) or the Senior Kangaroo (SKANG). Yanxi Lin and Yuechen Lu were selected to take part in the SKANG and Robert Ferguson the BMO1, with Robert going on to achieve a distinction in the BMO1. An outstanding achievement! Pictured are the students who took part in the Maths Challenge.



## TEN VARNDEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN PLACES AT CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD

Ten Varndean College students are celebrating being offered places at Britain's two top-ranked universities. As in previous years, nearly half the college candidates were successful in the 2016 round of Oxbridge applications.

Pictured, from left to right, are Maddie Farrell (Modern Languages, Christchurch, Oxford), Robin Ferguson (Physics, Worcester, Oxford), Dominic Judd-Page (History, Churchill, Cambridge), Odhran O'Donoghue (Medicine, Wadham, Oxford), Freya Way (Natural Sciences, Emmanuel, Cambridge) and Annika Schlemm (Biology, St John's Oxford). All are International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students.

Also successful were Jake Kroeger (Humanities, King's, Cambridge), Sam Rimmer (History, Fitzwilliam, Cambridge), Sophie Scott (English, Murray Edwards, Cambridge) and Nesta Smith (Philosophy, Churchill, Cambridge). The college offers individual support and advice from two specialist tutors to help students through the whole application process and is very proud of these students' achievements.

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - COMMUNITY LINKS

Health & Social Care students continue to build on their strong links with the local community.

### Recent events include:

In October, 20 BTEC students visited Patching Lodge, a sheltered housing scheme for older people, where they took part in an Alzheimer's Society 'Dementia Friends' information session. They were able to gain a deeper understanding of dementia and the challenges faced by sufferers and their families, plus learn about how to create more 'dementia friendly' communities. Students are Dementia Friends by the end of the session.

For World AIDS Day in December, A2 students met speakers from the Terrence Higgins Trust Positive Voices when they come to college for their annual talk. Speakers talk openly about their experiences of being HIV positive and students gain invaluable insight.

In February, Level 2 BTEC students met and liaised with the local Sexual Health Screening Team to publicise their annual Chlamydia Screening Week in college. Students became peer educators and designed posters for college wide display, with an award presented for the most eye-catching and informative.

In total this year an impressive 89 Health & Social Care students are attending care settings in the local community for their work placements or coursework assignments. They continue to excel and several are offered employment as a result.

## THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

Year 1 and Year 2 French IB students have enjoyed a brief link with the Unguju Ukuu Primary School in Zanzibar, a little village an hour's drive from the capital of Stonetown. We set up a Skype link which only worked for the Zanzibar school under a tree in the garden, on the only available computer equipment – the UK volunteer's lap top – and the link lasted just 10 minutes. However, for the children in Zanzibar we are told that the excitement was intense and they were thrilled that the connection was made at all. We in the UK on the other hand were frustrated that

the link was lost after 10 minutes! For the IB students the focus was about cultural similarities and differences across the world, and the live interaction brought the inequalities to life. Questions from Zanzibar included "Can you share your books with us?" and the best impromptu question was "Can we come to visit?" After the Skype session the Zanzibar and the Brighton students exchanged email messages and pictures showing their families, their school and lifestyles. As you can see in the faces on both sides of the world, it was a really enjoyable experience.



## SUSSEX UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR ART

Back in February, Vardean A Level Fine Art students were treated to a visit from Sussex University History of Art students, Sam Alan and Clio Perkins, who shared their enthusiasm for Renaissance Sculpture and Twentieth Century Photography with them.

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO GET READING AHEAD!

Students are invited to take part in 'Reading Ahead', a scheme run by the Reading Ahead Agency. Reading Ahead supports young people and adults by changing their perception of reading, opening up opportunities and building their confidence.

Pick up a Registration Form from the college library, then pick six reads and record them in a diary. You can read anything you like: books, poems, plays or newspapers. The scheme runs until June. Once you have completed the challenge you will receive a certificate and be entered for a national prize draw where you can win some great prizes.





MEMBERS OF THE **MUSLIM VOICE** AND **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** HELD A WONDERFUL CHARITY EVENT IN NOVEMBER WITH OVER 30 STUDENTS WHO ENJOYED, FOR A SMALL DONATION, A RANGE OF TEAS AND CAKES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN SUFFERING IN SYRIA. OUR PRINCIPAL PHIL HARLAND SAID HOW PROUD HE WAS TO SEE SUCH DIVERSITY AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE AND HOW THIS GROUP OF STUDENTS HAD SHOWN COMMITMENT TO MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS MOVED BY THE PLIGHT OF OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND SAVE ENVIRONMENT.

## GREEK EXPERIENCE

Students from Classics and Maths enjoyed an amazing trip to Greece in February. Arriving at Cape Sounion, the ancient Temple of Poseidon on a warm afternoon we began our tour of ancient Athens. The views from our seaside hotel were idyllic and set the mood for the trip. We visited Olympia, a sanctuary and home of the first Olympic Games where we ran the bi-annual sprint. (This year won by Michael Stone). The next day at Epidaurus an ancient Greek theatre built in 340 BC we discussed Greek Tragedy and Comedy and appreciated the reality of what it was like to be

one of 13,000 spectators. At Mycenae, the home of Agamemnon we marvelled at the site which still manages to illustrate how between the 13th and 14th century the Mycenaean civilisation was at its peak of power, influence and artistic expression. For the finale we visited the Acropolis, an ancient monument of huge historical and archaeological significance which epitomises the spirit of Ancient Greece. We left Greece tired and happy and



everyone agreed it had been great fun but, more importantly, a tangible learning experience students would never forget.



## PATHS2SUCCESS

Successful Business Studies students who were selected to be part of this year's Paths2Success business mentorship programme enjoyed a fun afternoon back in December participating in our mentor matching workshop. Business mentors and students all enjoyed taking part in various tasks and activities which allowed them all to meet and the afternoon culminated in excellent mentor/mentee matches being made. Initial meetings took place before Christmas and mentors and mentees now continue to meet regularly with students benefitting significantly from these valuable sessions.

Students are now in the process of selecting preferences for work experience and each will undertake

a week of work experience in June. Our mentors are all successful and experienced business experts with a wealth of experience from a variety of different business functions including finance, marketing, human resources, IT and several are successful entrepreneurs in the local area.

The P2S students also had an inspirational day in February when they visited Fidelity International's offices in Surrey. This fantastic opportunity was provided by one of our P2S mentors who is a Technology Director at Fidelity. The action packed day started with an interesting overview of the company and its range of financial products followed by a more specific look at the vital role of the talented technology team.

The newly designed Kingswood offices were impressive and students got an excellent feel for the general working environment and culture of the business. This was followed by a video conference call where students along with tutors Steve & Maggie were able to chat to 3 members of the technology team located in offices in Delhi, India about their role. Next we visited the Cyber Defence Unit which highlighted some of the current issues and challenges. During lunch students met several employees who are on the company's graduate programme as well as their impressive apprenticeship programme. The afternoon provided tours and presentations from different business functions including Human Resources. Overall students gained a fantastic overview of business functions and career opportunities and were able to apply various theories to a company such as Fidelity

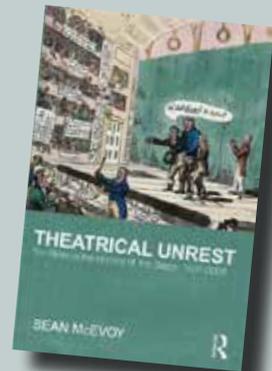
If you feel you would like to be involved or for more information about this scheme, please contact Maggie Paxton-Walker (Paths2Success Coordinator) at [mpw@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:mpw@varndean.ac.uk).

## SEAN McEVROY, THE COLLEGE'S IB'S CO-ORDINATOR, HAS HIS FIFTH BOOK PUBLISHED BY ROUTLEDGE

**T**heatrical Unrest: Ten Riots in the History of the Stage 1601-2004 tells how the theatre has been the spark for violence across four countries and four hundred years, from a revolt against the Queen in Shakespeare's time to a riot in Birmingham by protesting Sikhs.

Sean is also giving a keynote lecture at a Brighton University Conference on Shakespeare and

Education this April, marking the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death. Also marking the anniversary is the publication of the biggest ever resource and reference book on the Bard, the Cambridge World Shakespeare Encyclopedia. Sean has written the entry on Shakespeare's friend, the playwright and poet Ben Jonson.



**Varndean College**  
Surrenden Road  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 6WQ

**For further information**  
please telephone  
**(01273) 508011**  
[www.varndean.ac.uk](http://www.varndean.ac.uk)  
email: [office@varndean.ac.uk](mailto:office@varndean.ac.uk)

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