



Varndean
College Brighton & Hove

UPDATE

SPRING 2022



CHEMISTRY NEWS



**BILLIE CLARK
GETS SIGNED
FOR THE
ALBION**



**CHARLOTTE
FARRANT
BROIDERS
HER WAY TO
THE TOP**



NEW STUDENT UNION



AMERICAN EXPRESS ELITE FOOTBALL PERFORMANCE CENTRE



VARNDEAN'S SPORTING HEROES!



VARNDEAN COLLEGE & RMA FOOTBALLERS MAKE IT TO U18 ENGLISH COLLEGES SQUAD AND GET SIGNED BY THE ALBION!

In January, congratulations went to two of our BTEC Sport and Russell Martin Academy students, Daniel Cadman (Year 1) and Billie Clark (Year 2), both formerly of Patcham School, who after a rigorous selection were selected as members of the U18 English Colleges Football Association squad.

Billie and Dan are part of the Russell Martin Academy programme at Varndean, led by former Brentford defender and Burgess Hill Town Manager, Jay Lovett, and starred in England College's first match at the FA's national training centre - a venue graced by the likes of Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling - in which they drew 3-3.

Centre-back Cadman, who joined

the RMA programme in September, said: "Putting that England shirt on and sharing the whole experience with Bill was crazy and something I'll never forget. St. George's Park was something else. I couldn't believe how good the pitches and facilities were."

Left-winger Clark, who set-up one of England's three goals in the game, commented: "It was such a huge honour to represent my country and play at St. George's Park. The whole experience was amazing. To play alongside Dan in a game like that was a dream come true. We've been really close since we were little and have both worked hard to get where we are."

Billie has since gone on to sign a professional football contract with Brighton & Hove Albion's U23 team! He is continuing to finish his studies part-time here whilst

he's not training or playing for the Albion. Congratulations Billie, what a fantastic achievement and we certainly look forward to watching your career progress and seeing you play at The Amex.

RMA HEAD COACH, JAY LOVETT WINS MANAGER OF THE MONTH

Meanwhile, Jay Lovett, Head Coach of the RMA Football Programme at Varndean College won the Isthmian South East Manager of the month award in January. As well as coaching at Varndean, Jay is also in charge of Burgess Hill Town Football Club. Congratulations Jay! The Russell Martin Academy football programme is a football performance programme offered to students at Varndean College alongside their studies. Led by



SPORTS LEADERSHIP

Well done to all Vardean College Sports Leaders who have had a busy term volunteering at a range of local sport events in Brighton & Hove. Over the last three months they have been coaching, officiating and marshallng at the Brighton Half Marathon, Sussex Schools Indoor Athletics at BACA,

Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships at Waterhall and Year 6 PE lessons at Balfour Primary School.

Congratulations also to our two 'This Girls Can' ambassadors & Sports Leader students, Oliva Hardwick & Lauren Bowtle, who have been selected to volunteer at the AOC National Championships in Nottingham in April.

RYAN WINS FESTIVE CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

Congratulations to Year 1 student Ryan Morphew, who was this year's winner of our Festive Card design competition. Ryan (ex-Chailey School), who studies A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Graphic Design was presented with his £50 cash prize by Principal, Donna-Marie Janson in December. The standard of entries was really high, but Ryan's design particularly caught the eye of the senior management team and was used as the official Vardean College card. Thank you to everyone who entered.



ENGINEERING STUDENTS ACQUIRE CAD SKILLS

In Jan/Feb 2022, 20 CTEC Engineering students completed a short course in introductory CAD (Computer Aided Design) skills. This was an internal course delivered by John Higginson (Teacher of Engineering) and covered a range of techniques including sketching, extruding, adding dimensions as well as planes, fillets and multiple sketch regions. Students will find these skills useful in the Engineering course and in their future studies of Engineering.

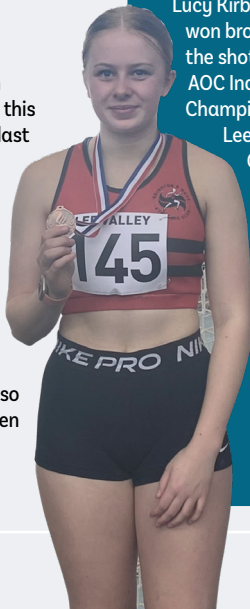
ex-professional players, it offers intensive training and competitions at high performance level as well as providing links with pro and semi pro clubs.

FOOTBALL

The College's men's first football team have been doing tremendously well this season. We reached the last 16 of the AOC Premier national cup which is a massive achievement, the quarter finals of the ESFA National Competition, another remarkable achievement, as well as the semi-finals of the County Cup. The team also currently remain unbeaten in the league.

BRONZE IN SHOTPUT

Success has also been achieved by Year 2 student, Lucy Kirby, who recently won bronze medal in the shotput at the AOC Indoor Athletics Championships 2022 at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. A fantastic achievement with colleges from all across the UK attending the event.



CHEMISTRY NEWS



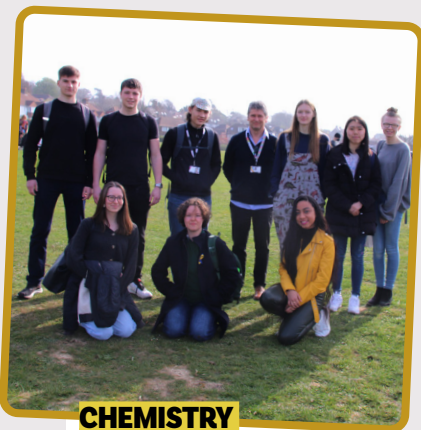
CHEMISTRY TUTOR, JOHN LUTON, BUILDS CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMME WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE RSC'S 'ELEVATING CHEMISTRY' SCHEME

In 2021, with the financial support of the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Elevating Chemistry' scheme, Chemistry tutor, John Luton, was able to run a project aimed at consolidating course content. Initially focussing on A Level students, but then later IB too, John hired two tutors (Tom a former Varndean student and Amelia, a science technician) who provided hour-long tutorials focussing on consolidating learning to small, tiered groups of students, as well as revision sessions for first year A-level students.

John said: "It felt good to have some backup. The A Level students were awarded Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) and were better prepared for the mini "tests" set by the exam board. The extra time spent consolidating and practising questions with Amelia and Tom led to a better and more reliable outcome. I also felt that the students who went to university were better prepared than they would have been otherwise. Next year, I will use the remaining money to continue this consolidation process, but in a smaller form. Both the first year A-level and IB students, now in their second year, have already had some support through the project and I know this has had a big effect."

MOCK MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEWS

In November, seven doctors visited Varndean to talk to our aspiring medicine students and run two hours of mock multiple mini interviews (MMI). Six interview stations were set up, giving students the opportunity to experience what it is like to participate in an MMI and tackle some of the questions they may face to get into medical school. Year twos participated and year ones observed.



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Twelve A Level and IB Chemistry students entered the 2022 RSC Chemistry Olympiad in January.

The Chemistry Olympiad is open to schools and colleges throughout the UK, aimed at those students in their last year of study before higher education. The competition is designed to challenge students, develop their thinking and problem-solving skills, and test their knowledge of chemistry in real-world situations.

This year, our students achieved six Gold and four Silver awards, with two Bronze awards being awarded to two of our first-year students, such an amazing achievement.

Around 30 students are selected to progress onto round two, a weekend of training and assessments in April, and then just four chosen to represent the UK at the International Chemistry Olympiad held in China in July.

CHEMISTRY RACE CHALLENGE

Six Year 1 and Year 2 Chemistry students struggled through the aftermath of Storm Eunice on Saturday 19 February to take part in the University of Cambridge's annual Chemistry Race. Only in its third year, the Chemistry Race is a competition for teams of three to five sixth form students, where each team works together in a race to solve unusual chemistry problems. These are marked by examiners in real time and a live leader board is on display. Whoever gets the most points wins, with prizes and certificates being given to the others.

Well done to Team A who came 33rd and Team B who came 43rd. Fantastic results especially considering Team B were all first-

year students. Second year student Enjir Bashir said: "It was such a wonderful experience for us to meet new people and work as a team." and second year Caedmon Szobody said: "The Chemistry Race was amazing. Unlike other chemistry challenges I've done, rather than simply sitting an exam, there was more of emphasis on teamwork and having fun. I really wish I could compete again next year and would heartily recommend it to any student thinking of giving it a try."



OXFORD ETHICS COMPETITION

Congratulations also to Anna Zhang, Bianca Pigatto, Daniela Torres Cuoco and Liahna St Louis who have been shortlisted to the final four in the University of Oxford's Ethics and Responsibility Competition. The competition is open internationally to teams aged between 16-18 who must submit a video about an ethical problem and how they think responsibility is involved. The four winning entries are then invited to Oxford where they spend a day taking part in debates and competitions, as well as gaining a taste of university life.

OUR ASPIRING MEDICINE STUDENTS

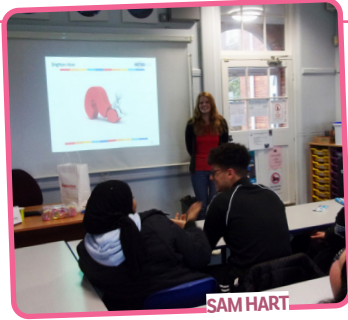
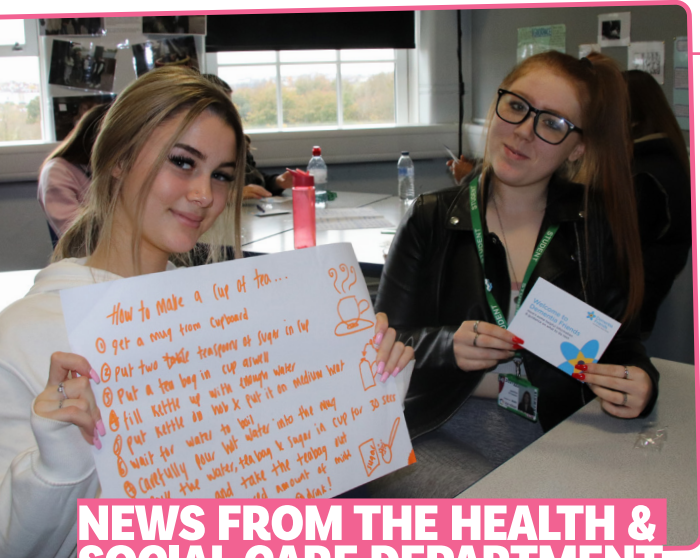
Four Year One IB students, Liahna St Louis, Bianca Pigatto, Daniela Torres Cuoco and Anna Zhang attended a talk by Professor Chris Pepper at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) in November. The talk entitled 'Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia: It's Personal' was an incredibly detailed, scientific, yet intimate talk on the science behind Professor Pepper's research on CLL at BSMS, focussing on the biological insights and clinical advancements with an overarching theme of his own personal experience. He discussed the timeline of drugs used to combat CLL, the advancement of medicine from the era of Chemotherapy to the era of Targeted Therapy, and



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT WITH PROFESSOR PEPPER ARE: LIAHNA ST LOUIS, BIANCA PIGATTO, DANIELA TORRES CUOCO AND ANNA ZHANG

the biological processes behind this. However, it was his passion for cancer research and personal perspective with the death of his father from the disease that drove

the lecture and the girls said "to be part of his audience was truly an honour".



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT

The Autumn proved a very busy and inspiring term for Health & Social Care students. In November, Year 2 Diploma students benefited from a fascinating talk about the importance of ethics in research. Lauren Shukru, from Sussex University's Research Ethics Committee, spoke about topics such as the Alder Hey scandal and how this influenced The Human Tissue Act 2008, as well as the 10 points of the Nuremberg Code. By the end of the talk students were able to discuss ethical issues behind 'Assessing levels of anxiety and depression of healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic' and 'Looking at reward behaviours in people with a gambling addiction', both immensely helpful for their Research Project.

Year 2 students also learned from Sam Hart, a member of Brighton & Hove Buses Accessibility and Communities Team, that Brighton & Hove Buses are mentioned in the Department of Transport's 'Inclusive Transport Strategy' for examples of excellent practice. Sam spoke to students about the impressive range of strategies

which the bus company use to meet the varying physical and emotional needs of the population. One of many interesting and helpful innovations is how buses have light blue floors, not black, in order to be more dementia friendly. Students can now put this information to good use when completing their coursework about Supporting People with Additional Needs, as well as seeing with a fresh eye the various adaptations on our buses.

Meanwhile, students in Year 1 enjoyed a fascinating talk from Ellen Jones, a Dementia Friends volunteer. Tutor Linda Bailey said

"Ellen's annual visits are always fantastic and really engage our students. They learned that there are over 100 different types of Dementia and that it is possible to live well with the illness. Following the talk, they signed up to be 'Dementia Friends' and aim to undertake a Dementia friendly action, for example being patient in a shop queue behind an elderly person. With a prediction that by 2040 1.6 million people in the UK will have Dementia, our young Dementia Friends can do their part in making a difference."

Later in the term, students gained an insight into the world of social care with a visit from recently retired Care Manager, Tina Howes, who once managed a home for adults with learning disabilities. She was able to discuss and answer questions on a variety of scenarios. It was interesting to hear first-hand the effects that Covid

THEATRE ROYAL TRIP



had on the residents and also how the cost of a five-litre bottle of hand sanitiser soared from £8.99 to £144!

In December, Health & Social Care students joined with Sociology students and had a great time at the Theatre Royal seeing the musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'. Exploring themes around prejudice and identity, it was ultimately uplifting, thought-provoking and made for a really feel-good festive night out.



TRIP TO THORPE PARK

Fifty-five students from the Health and Social Care and Early Years departments spent a great day at Thorpe Park in October. The weather was glorious and the ride queues were short. Alongside the fun, students had to look at the accessibility of the park for anyone with a disability. Thorpe Park markets itself as 'making every effort that their facilities are accessible to as many of our guests as possible,' so students were given the task of checking facilities, looking at ride limitations, wheelchair accessibility and the positive impact of Access passes.

After the last 18 months of lockdowns, isolations and online learning, perhaps the best thing was seeing students enjoying the whole experience with huge smiles the whole day.

VARNDEAN ART TUTOR, AMY DURY, APPEARS ON SKY ARTS 'PORTRAIT ARTIST OF THE YEAR'

During lockdown and whilst receiving treatment for breast cancer in late 2020, Varndean Art tutor, Amy Dury, applied for the Sky Arts 'Portrait Artist of the Year' competition and in February 2021 unexpectedly received a phone call telling her that they'd like her to feature on the show!

Amy said: "I had just two months to practise. I continued my series of paintings of friends, from photos I took on our lockdown walks, practised carry out a portrait in under four hours, and tried to work with a range of models with different ages and skin tones. My one fear was getting someone with loads of make-up on!

So, the day came. I think I only had two or three hours of sleep! It was a sunny crisp morning and I set off with my big bag of excessive paints and brushes. It was really nice meeting a few of the other contestants and we were introduced to Line of Duty and Bridgerton actress, Polly Walker. She was a good sitter with great wavy dark hair and blue-green eyes to complement a blue background

Joan Bakewell talked to me about breast cancer and how it affected my art. Katherine Soriano was interesting and seemed to get the passion for faces that I have, and Tai was thoughtful, telling me he saw that I was interested in emotion and light. It was a real treat to get to speak to them all.

Polly kindly chose the painting to take with her and I was selected through to the final three! I was pretty sure Callum would win as his painting was very beautiful, so it was all ok when he did go through and went on to win the entire series.

As a result of the competition, I racked up a few hundred more Instagram followers as well as selling a few paintings! I'm so glad I did it, it was great fun and most certainly a conversation piece."



WATCH THIS SPACE!

A host of Varndean budding new actors took part in 'Watch This Space!', at the Electric Arcade in March. Performed by members of our Performing Arts enrichment programme, 'Watch This Space' was a collection of monologues and duologues. Open to all students across the curriculum, the enrichment programme runs every Thursday lunchtime and is designed for students who are thinking about a career in the arts. Our next exciting project will focus on comedy.

VARNDEAN PERSONAL TUTOR, MARTINA GILLI, ONE OF THREE FINALISTS IN THE FETN OUTSTANDING PERSONAL TUTOR AWARD

Huge congratulations to Varndean Personal Tutor, Martina Gilli, who was chosen as one of the three finalists in the national FETN (Further Education Tutorial Network) Outstanding Personal Tutor Awards, sponsored by eSafe Global.

FETN is the UK's leading professional body for managers and practitioners of tutorial provision across the Further Education and Training sector.

The FETN Outstanding Personal Tutor Award provides an opportunity to honour tutors who

deliver an extraordinary service to students and their learning. It acknowledges and celebrates the contributions of staff whose primary responsibility is to support individual learners to develop and progress, and recognise innovative tutoring techniques, the quality of

practice, the impact an individual tutor makes and the standards to which they work.

Martina was nominated back last summer by Head of School, Julian Bowker, for her outstanding performance as a Personal Tutor; learning in November that she had made it through to final three and invited to a presentation at the FETN Annual Conference on 19 November.

Not only is Martina a Personal Tutor for our 16-19 years old students, but she also teaches French and Italian as part of our evening adult education programme and runs her own private tutoring service 'Tina the Tutor' <https://tina.tutorbird.com> in which she has taught all ages, from aged 2-80! Congratulations Martina, very well deserved.





NEW STUDENT UNION!

After a brilliant campaign throughout March, and with hustings and student voting taking place over two weeks, our brand-new Student Union for 2022-23 were announced on 25 March. Congratulations go to the 10 students who make up the new Executive; Thomas and Martha (Joint Presidents), Konstantinos (Media), Sophie (Graphic Design), Marwah (EDI), Matilda (Wellbeing), Beth (Democracy), Eloise (Environment), Elise (Charity/Events), Cassie (Enrichment) and Jood Aljafaeri (Communications).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

To coincide with their study of sustainable communities, Environmental Sustainability classes visited the new Preston Barracks development on Lewes Road earlier this year. One group were given a tour of the University of Brighton campus and their brand-new buildings. The other group got to see Plus X, an office area within the same complex

that rents out space for people to work in, with its spectacular rooftop terrace.

Students also had the opportunity of visiting Drusillas Park in February to help with their studies on wildlife conservation. Following a small tour and talk from the venue's staff, students even got to handle a few animals including a chinchilla, a snake and an armadillo!



Well done to our Year 2 BTEC Business students who, as part of their diploma coursework, raised over £300 for the Clock Tower Sanctuary, a Brighton based day centre for homeless 16-24 year olds.

As part of their fundraising activities, the students organised a 4-A-Side Football tournament in the hall for students and staff, followed by a 'Thrift & Mix Sale' in which they collected donations of unwanted clothing over a two-week period, culminating in a sale of the second-hand goods in the hall.





EARLY YEARS 'STUDENT OF THE MONTH'

This academic year, we have continued with our popular Early Years 'Student of the Month' awards. First to receive recognition in September, was not one but six students for outstanding practice and professionalism in a placement setting. Missi Mae Howlett, Tayla Van Lille, Gamar Ali, Magda Sochocka, Sophie Dartnell and Poppy Edwards are all in a school setting for their second-year placements and have been described by their class teachers as 'professional, exceptional and a real asset, loved by the children and possessing excellent knowledge and skills as they promote care and learning'. Their teachers made a point of contacting the college to let us know just how well they are doing and we are very proud to see Vardean students making such a positive impact in the lives of the young children they are working with.

Our first-year students too had a busy first term, not only with a new college to become familiar with, but a first aid course, a trip to Thorpe Park, as well as a huge volume of coursework. They all began really well, but a few were chosen as recipients of the award.



SADIE BRENNAN



LIBBY, TAZ, ABI & HOLLY

In October, Holly Hobbs was given the award for writing a fantastic review of the students' visit to Thorpe Park; November saw Abi Thompson recognised for her approach to the course and for being such a cheerful and caring person in class and placement; and in December Taz Begum was awarded for her outstanding coursework.

2022's students of the month so far have included; in January Year Two student Libby Potter for perseverance; and in February, Year One student Sadie Brennan, who has continued to aim high and make the most of every opportunity to do well by attending extra support sessions and using new skills and techniques to achieve high grades.

Well done to all of you.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

In March staff brought in donations towards a local appeal run by members of the Ukrainian community from Brighton & Hove in conjunction with St Andrew's Church, Hove. In just two days, a very impressive collection was gathered and Site Team members, Donna and Matthew, delivered the contributions to the church the following weekend.

The following week was our Student Union's turn, who in their free time between lessons, collected funds in return for an 'I stand with Ukraine' sticker and in just a few days raised £273.

And on Wednesday 16 March, staff and students



wore blue and yellow in support of 'A Day for Ukraine' organised by First News in partnership with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

LET'S DANCE

Following the cancellation of last year's event due to the Covid pandemic, Varndean College Dance students made an emotional and long-awaited return to the theatre in March. Students acted as assistant stage managers, backstage crew and mentors for 'Let's Dance', a spectacular celebration of schools, colleges, universities and independent dance groups, with over 2000 dancers performing at Brighton's iconic venue, The Dome.

Year 2 dance students also mentored Year 1 students and trained them in their roles over the

first four nights. Then on the fifth night the second years handed over to the first years as they put down their walkie talkies and put on their costumes to perform the closing piece of the whole event in front of a full audience, including some VIP guests such as councillors, head teachers and other important people in Brighton & Hove. It was an exhausting yet utterly exhilarating experience for all involved and for those students progressing to Year 2 - they just can't wait to do it all again next year!



LIFE ON MARS

In January, A Level Media Studies students were honoured with a visit to their lesson by British award-winning actor, director and musician, John Simm. John is best known for playing DI Sam Tyler in *Life on Mars*, *The Master* in *Doctor Who*, *Clocking Off*, *Mad Dogs* and most recently *DSI Roy Grace* in *Grace*, a detective series filmed in Brighton and Sussex.

John came to visit Varndean to talk to Media Studies students

about role in *Life on Mars*, one of their A Level case studies about a police officer from the Greater Manchester Police in the year 2006 but who wakes up in 1973 after being hit by a car.

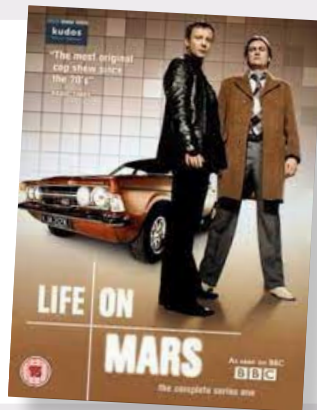
Students were able to hear first-hand about John's experience of playing the role of DI Sam Tyler and ask him any questions about this powerful award-winning drama series.

STUDENTS ATTEND GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION LECTURES

Each month the Geographical Association (Brighton and Hove Branch) organises lectures for college students across Sussex. Held at BHASVIC, with the first lecture always being held at Brighton University, these lectures are presented by academics from a variety of universities, businesses and environmental organisations. This presents an excellent extra-curricular opportunity for students to further develop their geographical understanding.

In January the Association presented a lecture entitled 'The problem with cars and how to solve it' by Rick Lyons, co-director of Three Point Five, a climate change training company, and in February students attended a talk by Dr Sarah Scuzzarello of the University of Sussex on 'Migrant workers and the pandemic'. The talk discussed the impacts of Covid-19 on migrant workers in the UK, with a specific attention to migrant women.

Pictured is Year 1 student, Joseph Busby, and Varndean Geography tutor, Mark Halliwell at BHASVIC.



CHARLOTTE EMBROIDERS HER WAY TO THE TOP

Huge congratulations go to Year Two student, Charlotte Farrant, who has recently been awarded a much sought-after place at the prestigious Royal School of Needlework, based at the magnificent Hampton Court Palace, London.

Charlotte, formerly of Downlands Community School in Hassocks, currently studies A Level Textiles, 3D Design and BTEC Environmental Sustainability and is one of only twenty students accepted to study a degree qualification at the school each year. She will be following a BA (Hons) Degree in Hand Embroidery, the only education establishment in Europe to offer this qualification.

Founded in 1872, The Royal School of Needlework holds a world-renowned reputation for excellence in hand embroidery and offers international links and opportunities for degree student collaboration placements through its extensive professional connections.



Gaining a place at this prestigious school holds a special place in Charlotte's heart since her grandmother, Dorothy, attended the school at the age of just 14 years old. However, after studying there for only one year, had to leave due to the war and her having to find a job. Her grandmother went to work as a scullery maid at the estate of Sir Martin Arthur Leake whilst he was away at war and her textiles work is still displayed around the house to this day. This has been a huge inspiration to Charlotte from a very young age and she knew when she recently visited the RSN's stand at London's Knitting & Stitch Show that she wanted this to be her destiny.

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Varndean College is celebrating the success of Resham Bagaria, a second year A Level Biology student who competed in the 2022 British Biology Olympiad in March and was awarded Silver.

Over 10,000 students from more than 700 schools worldwide took part in this year's competition and she was in the 10% of students who were awarded Silver. This is a great achievement.

The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) is an annual competition that challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their talent and be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates.

The 2022 competition comprised two 45-minute papers sat back-to-back on the same day. The first paper with questions about all aspects of biology and the

second containing longer problem-solving questions. Candidates are presented with unfamiliar ideas and topics and have to use complex problem-solving skills and intuition to answer challenging questions.

Resham was mentored and coached by Varndean Biology tutor, Yaso Shan, who said "as ever, the competition questions were incredibly challenging, testing

students' ability to carefully consider, analyse and evaluate general scientific principles in addition to the depth and breadth of knowledge on all aspects of biology which candidates are asked to apply to complex problem-solving questions. It is a testament to Resham that she had the skills and intellectual acumen to meet these challenges under stringent time constraints. I congratulate her wholeheartedly for her resolve and aptitude."

After taking her A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths this summer, Resham hopes to go to university to study either Psychological and Behavioural Science or Human Biology with Behaviour.



IB STUDENT, ELLA TINGLEY, WINS AN ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

Year One, IB student, Ella Tingley (formerly of Oathall Community College) was one of the 2021 recipients of a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship to help fund her future studies at college or university.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme is the most esteemed scholarship scheme of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their career paths in engineering. The Scholarships are awarded to 16-year old students through a rigorous selection process with the aim of supporting them through their A levels, Scottish Highers or equivalent. Each Scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, charitable trust or personal donor. This means that support is offered in various different ways, for example, hands-on work experience, support for the student's curriculum project, as well as a personal mentor.



Ella applied whilst a Year 11 student at Oathall Community College and after having passed through the rigorous selection process learned of her success this autumn. She was then matched with her sponsor, UK educational charity, The Ernest Cook Trust.

The Ernest Cook Trust is a land-based education trust caring for 22,500 acres of land across nine estates, a model for innovative and experimental methods of land management, and who aim to inspire a greater love and understanding of the natural world, farming and environmental sustainability.

Ella, who is studying the two-year IB Diploma at Vardean and hopes to study either engineering or medicine at university, has been awarded £600 to help with her studies, for example the purchase of textbooks or attendance on workshops and summer schools. Her school has also been awarded £400 for the purchase of equipment or teacher training to enhance the delivery of STEM subjects.

Ella is pictured here with Vardean College Principal, Donna-Marie Janson. Huge congratulations Ella.



THE POLITICS DEPARTMENT

The Politics Department was excited to be one of the first groups to take a tour of the Houses of Parliament since the Parliamentary Education Unit reopened its doors due to the easing of Covid restrictions.

During the tour we were able to sit in the public gallery of the House of Commons and watch a debate take place as well as stand in Westminster Hall in the spot where international dignitaries such as Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela have stood to address MPs and Peers. We also visited the Supreme Court which is a stone's throw away, across Parliament Square. Here we were able to sit in on a case in one of the Court rooms and see some of the Supreme Court Justices in action. Well done Max.



UNDER ARREST

In December, 30 Sociology students visited the old police cells underneath Brighton town hall. They were given a very informative guided tour by an ex police officer who answered questions about the purpose of punishment; retribution, justice or punishment, shown some very alarming forms of restraint, and also learnt about how a police officer was murdered in the town hall back in 1844. Students were then shown around the cells where the 'mods and rockers' (two conflicting British subcultures) were held during the 'riots' in the 1960s. The police cells also held artefacts about women in policing and how changes in equality of opportunity legislation meant that Brighton has more equal representation. This was a really informative visit to support their Year 2 crime topic and will now be a regular trip on the calendar.

SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

In November, the College began a new series of our 'Spotlight on Careers' events for students.

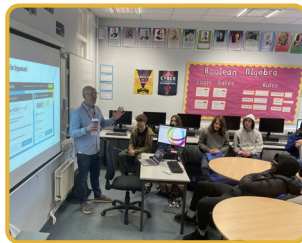
First was the 'Business and Enterprise Day' for Year 2 Business Studies students. Students participated in four workshops; What can I do with a Business Degree? Business in Action, Personal Statements and CVs and Young Women in Enterprise, presented by the University of Surrey and Albion in the Community. These created quite a buzz amongst students and staff and were dedicated to immersing students in a day of business, future planning and opportunities.

Next up was 'Spotlight Careers in Health and Social Care' in December when we welcomed visits from two social workers, a midwife, nurse, occupational therapist and a SEN teacher. Over

70 students from across college were able to discuss their desired careers. As one student said "After hearing the midwife talk, I absolutely knew this was the right career for me."

In January, Economics teamed up with an international tax consultant in Africa who has mentored a number of students via Zoom, leading to two of our students being shortlisted for trainee accountancy positions at Kreston Reeves.

February saw students enthralled with 'how to achieve a high stakes career in cyber security' by senior IT consultant Jamie Lockhart.



Then Scott Howland talked on 'Working for Google' which included a really inspirational story of how he moved from being a youth worker to a Google sales executive. Students were excited to hear how Scott had started out with a Music Tech qualification, followed by a Youth Work degree, but after a move to Brighton changed his entire career path to Business Development.

In the Classics department, students heard from ex-students and local entrepreneurs about where their Classics degree has taken them, ranging from financial consulting (achieved on the back of a dissertation on Roman tax planning!) and setting up a computer games development company.

Then we had 'Legal Week' with workshops by a judge, a solicitor and an ex-student, and Media Week with an insight into The Depot and independent film making.

PHILOSOPHY NEWS

The Philosophy Department have started a new Meditation and Storytelling Group taking place at Thursday lunchtimes. Led by tutor Tim Wells, the group explores body-based mindfulness practices used to promote well-being and happiness, help soothe the stress and anxiety, as well as increase the ability to deal with challenging thoughts and emotions.

The session is followed with storytelling by Fleur and stories so far have included; Cupid and Psyche, Demeter and the Story of the Seasons and the Poor Girl and Her Cow.

Students, Will Jump and Milla Jeffryes, have also been running the student led Philosophy Society since September. This is the first time the Society has been



exclusively run by students and it's been a huge success. Every week students engage in a lively, friendly, careful enquiry about some of life's most important and difficult subjects like; What is Beauty? What should our attitude be towards the natural environment? What is morality? What is masculinity? Students don't always agree with each other, but they are

great at disagreeing politely and working out exactly why they don't agree. This term we invited philosopher Ben Elliott to discuss Stoicism with students.

The Storytelling Society teamed up with poet Jo Gilar and The Storytelling Choir to engage in six creative workshops exploring the diverse complexity and ecological themes of Cinderella Variants. The workshops were delivered by incredible professional storytellers, with some even Zooming in from Spain, India and Palestine. Dr Shivani Kanodia, who delivered her workshop from Delhi, told an exhilarating Assamese Cinderella called 'Teja and Teji' that contained fascinating connections to the natural world and non-binary storyteller, Kestrel, from Wales delivered his workshop 'Muddy Feet' in person.



BRIGHTON PERIOD PROJECT

As part of the Creative, Action & Service (CAS) element of the IB Diploma, Year One student, Isobel Hallworth (formerly of Blatchington Mill School), has become a member of the newly formed 'Brighton Period Project', a group of young people from across Brighton & Hove looking to help combat period poverty.

The group of seven friends signed up to the National Citizens Service, a programme where young people gain new skills needed to become world and work-ready and raise their voice to make a positive difference and impact in the community. As part of their NCS experience, the girls set up an online campaign to raise awareness of period poverty and the stigma attached, instantly gaining a huge national following with over 1 million views in a day. They created a dedicated TikTok account @BrightonPeriodProject to use as a platform to spread

important information and raise awareness, along with Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The group also set up donation boxes in a number of shops where the public can make donations of female sanitary products; these are then collected and donated to local shelters for the homeless, women's centres and food banks. Most recently, the group organised donations for the Ukraine crisis. Through the group's Go Fund me account, they have also collected approx £1000 in cash and over 11,000 period products.

This month the group's actions were picked up on by the local media and Isobel, along with two of her friends also previously from Blatchington Mill, were interviewed by both BBC Radio Sussex and BBC TV South Today. They are pictured here talking to BBC TV South Today at Vardean College.



VARDEAN'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION GROUP

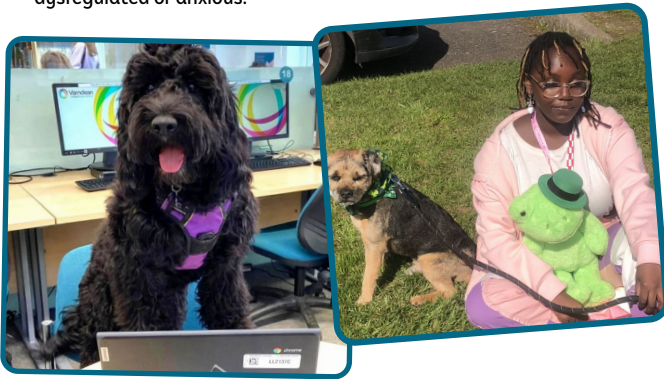
Vardean's Climate and Environment Action Group (CEAG) have been creating some new and exciting ideas for the college campus, in order to make our site beautiful, eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable. Led by Assistant Site Manager, Donna Valentine, along with other members of staff and students, they are transforming the banks along the top field, with Phase 1 recently completed. They are creating a wildflower meadow on the west bank; the flowers being mainly all native perennials. They are perfect for the environment here on the South Downs, all benefiting the ecosystem in amazing ways, pollinating and providing for all kinds of insects, including bees and butterflies.

The group have also come up with a brand new acronym GROVE - Great Rewilding of Vardean Endeavour

WELCOME TO BADGER & WILFRED, OUR NEW COLLEGE DOGS!

This term we said a fond farewell to our college dog, Simba, who retired from his services at Varndean and is enjoying his retirement away from the hustle and bustle of college life.

However, instead we have welcomed to our establishment, not one, but two new college dogs! Firstly, our library dog Badger, who is a young Cockapoo and will be based in the library most Friday mornings. She looks forward to meeting everyone soon and has already made her acting debut in our new college promo video due to be released this summer! Then on Thursdays we play host to Wilfred, a young Border Terrier who is based in the Additional Support room and just loves cuddles. He helps students to relax and focus if they are feeling dysregulated or anxious.



HISTORIANS VISIT 'THE KEEP'

History students intending to study the subject at university recently attended a research workshop at 'The Keep' archive centre run by the University of Sussex, East Sussex Record Office and Brighton and Hove Council.

Students were introduced to historical records and archive keeping and were able to study a sample of material from the Mass Observation Project, a unique record of people's experiences of daily life in Britain that has its origins in WW2 but continues to this day, allowing researchers to understand the ordinary lives behind national and international events. The material students studied ranged from life in the COVID pandemic and what advice people would give to their sixteen year old selves, to food and rationing during WW2.

Varndean
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE STUDENTS IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THE ROARING TWENTIES!

Year 1 and Year 2 English Language and Literature students experienced the true glitz and glamour of the roaring twenties on 15 December when they went to see 'The Great Gatsby' staged at Jay Gatsby's mansion in London's West End, the longest running immersive theatre production in London.

The spectacular adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's seminal tale set in 1922 about the illusions of love, marriage and the American dream was hosted by the man himself Jay Gatsby, played by Craig Hamilton.

Students were immersed in an interactive evening of 1920's cabaret, with jazz music, dazzling costumes and stunning choreography, and the opportunity to participate alongside the actors.

Students Emma Carter, Mary Gwynne, Kia Berry, Mia Farthing (all of whom dressed up in '20s clothing) and Heidi Leggett all said: "We loved the immersive aspect of the show. It was so much more enjoyable than just going to a regular theatre performance and we felt we learnt more from this as we got to talk to and interact with the actors, which was also really fun!"