



**IB STUDENTS
DO IT AGAIN!**



**TORONTO
TRIP**



ARTS EXHIBITION

UPDATE

 **Varndean**
CollegeBrighton&Hove

AUTUMN 2023



**VARNDEAN
SUCCESS
ONCE AGAIN**



VARNDEAN COLLEGE MASTERPLAN WINS COUNCIL APPROVAL

Varndean College was given the green light by Brighton & Hove City Council's Planning Committee in June, who voted unanimously in favour for development proposals to improve the campus for students, as part of a seven-year masterplan to improve our educational facilities.

The proposals, designed by ECE Architecture, include new high-quality teaching space, a new entrance building with a student café, improved communal space,

with enhanced accessibility across the campus for students and staff with mobility issues.

Plans also include a new sports hall, which can also be used by local community sports groups. Buildings will be designed with low carbon in mind, and landscape enhancements include tree planting and links to local wildlife corridors.

"We are delighted that we will now be able to enhance our facilities and use our beautiful estate to its best

advantage for our students and for our community and keep sustainability at our core," said Principal, Donna-Marie Janson.

"This will allow us a better chance to win Government funding grants to improve our buildings and facilities in a phased approach, allowing us to make significant improvements so that we can continue to deliver a superb learning experience for our thousands of young and adult students."

SUCCESS AT BRIGHTON & HOVE CITIZENS ASSEMBLY

Earlier in the year, staff and students from Varndean attended another successful Citizens UK event where hundreds gathered for one of the largest events of the local election season. Varndean College Principal, Donna-Marie Janson, College Vice-Principal, Lisa Watkin-Stevens and Director of Student Engagement, George Marshall, addressed some pertinent issues affecting students across our city.

Two political parties, The Green and Labour Party, were held accountable. Cllr Amanda Evens from Labour and the Green Party's Cllr Mac Cafferty agreed to ensure better lighting and signage is installed in Hove and Preston Parks, that a Night-time Charter is developed in partnership

with leaders and councillors in the hospitality industry so that safety is prioritised, and to ensure that funding is found to assist nearly 10,000 students across the city's schools and colleges for specialist support to address mental health difficulties. A massive win as the Citizens UK alliance have been campaigning for over two years.



SUCCESS FOR VARNDEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS ONCE AGAIN



Varndean College was once again incredibly proud and celebrated the achievements of its students this year, who get again achieved an outstanding record of A Level and Vocational course results.

Students completing their studies this year had faced extreme challenges in getting to what was for the majority of them their first public examination, with GCSEs in 2021 being replaced by Teacher Assessed Grades following a series of lockdowns.

Our results compared very favourably with 2019 pre pandemic levels and were a testament to the hard work and talent of our wonderful students. We were immensely proud of all of our students and our teaching staff worked tirelessly to ensure that they were prepared for these examinations and that their

results reflected their huge effort and commitment. The vast majority of our students have now gone on to their first-choice university, with many attending Russell Group universities.

The overall pass rate at A level was 98% with the majority of subjects achieving a 100% pass rate and a quarter of our students achieving the very highest of grades of A* and A, half of our students achieved A*-B and three quarters of students A*-C grades. Students were similarly successful in their vocational courses with a 98% pass rate overall, with half of students gaining the very highest grades of Distinction* and Distinction.

College Principal, Ms Donna-Marie Janson, said; "We were incredibly proud of our students this year and of what they achieved in their first set of public examinations. They dealt admirably with this milestone and were inspiring to work with, to teach and to get to know. Our students were quite frankly amazing and they and their loved ones should feel as proud of themselves as we were for their spirited determination and for all they achieved. I would like to thank and commend my entire staff for their continued hard work and dedication to ensuring that students have the best possible opportunities and the best possible experience. I would also like to thank all the parents and families of our students who supported us throughout, we could not have done it without you."





SOPHIE SECURES HER PERSONAL BEST AND FOUR GOLD MEDALS

Huge congratulations to Sophie Hogton who back in the Spring secured four gold medals at the Sussex County Athletics Championships. Sophie, a Year 2 student who left Varndean in June, secured personal best times in three of the events, which is testament to her focussed training and fearless mindset. Her gold medals were in the U20 women's 100m hurdles, 200m and 100m and the 4 X 100m relay.

Varndean tutor, Richard Carter, who has an illustrious career in athletics himself and who was a Brighton senior manager for 12 years and Sussex team manager for 10 years had the pleasure of coaching Sophie when she was much younger. He said: "Sophie is an outstanding athlete and she is so modest about her achievements but we are all so very proud of her."

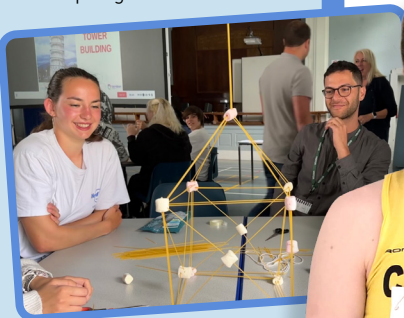
VARNDEAN POLITICS DEPARTMENT WELCOMES THE EARL OF LYTTON

The Politics Department was delighted to receive a visit from The Earl of Lytton back in May. Around thirty Politics A Level students attended the talk by Lord Lytton, who is one of 92 hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords. He spoke about the role of the House of Lords in British democracy and some of the reforms that it has gone through in his lifetime. The students asked a range of questions about topics such as Lord Lytton's thoughts on further reform of the Lords and his views on the monarchy. It was a fantastic opportunity to get an insider's view of the important constitutional role played by the House of Lords. Prior to this session with Lord Lytton, the students had taken part in online question and answer sessions with two life peers from the Lords, Baroness Wilcox and Baroness Pitkeathly. We were extremely grateful to all three peers for taking time out of their busy schedules to talk politics with our students. Programme Leader for Politics, Cathy Bryan, said: "Having a real-life Lord in the classroom was a fantastic way of bringing our study of Parliament to life"

VARNDEAN HOLDS INTERNSHIP DAY

In June, Varndean College hosted an 'Internship Day' for all its Year 1 students. The programme consisted of local, national and international employers delivering sessions such as assessment centre activities, how to effectively use social media, how to make yourself stand out from the crowd in an interview, how to improve your cv, as well as other top employment tips.

Thank you to all the businesses who joined us on the occasion, our students found the day informative and engaging and left feeling very inspired.



BIG GREEN WEEK AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE

As part of the nationwide Big Green Week in June, Varndean College hosted a number of lunchtime talks from prominent organisations involved in sustainability and conservation work to preserve natural habitats, to those involved in promoting biodiversity, campaign organisations focussed on the damaging impact of deforestation and highlighting the topical issues around intensive farming, the meat industry and livestock rearing.

Students also heard the inspirational personal journey of Nicola Peel, an environmental solutionist who gave an account of her 20 years of working in the Ecuadorian Amazon coordinating a number of environmental and social projects. She also spoke about Biomimicry and how scientists are exploring its importance in improving technology, architecture, material design and even textiles by learning from the world around us.

Students were also given an account of the work of Greenpeace by a climate justice campaigner who, through her fundraising work was able to explain how such justice could be accessed and described the crucial work to improve equality in relation to climate and social justice. She also explored the links between industrial meat production, carbon emissions and deforestation. Other talks were from Brighton Sea Life, the oldest aquarium in the world as well as the Millennium Seed Bank, who spoke about their work in conserving seeds from common, rare or endangered, useful plants. It is hoped that this work will serve as a



global insurance policy that preserves the genetic resource of the most diverse, wild plant species we have on earth.

We are now working on a programme of events and activities for Green Careers Week which takes place from 6-11 November.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS!

September saw us welcome the intake of new Year 1 students from schools right across Sussex, as well as the return of our fabulous Year 2 students.

Teaching commenced on Monday 11 September, with a Freshers' Week being held the following week of 18 September. Events included a lunchtime bake sale, stone craft making, board games, photography competition and a Wellbeing Fair.

Exhibitors at the Wellbeing Fair included; Sussex Police, Young Drivers, Food Bank Brighton, Young Carers Project, Terrence Higgins Trust, Brighton & Hove Sexual Health and Contraception Service, Youth Voice, amongst many others. Students were able to collect a huge array of information and free giveaways, as well as sign up to projects





"SELF TAPES" BTEC Performing Arts



CREATIVE ARTS SHOWCASE

On 13 June, Varndean College had the pleasure of hosting a two-hour Creative Arts Showcase, featuring the magnificent work of our students studying Performing Arts, Drama & Theatre, Dance, Film & Creative Media, Music Tech and Computer Games Development.

One of the highlights of the showcase was a solo dance performance from Year 2 student Milly Bajpai who has a place to train at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance from September, as well as a solo vocal performance by Shula Cooper from the award-winning Disney musical 'Newsies'.

Also during the evening, this year's Sam Paterson Award was presented to Year 2 student Cara MacKrorry-Jamieson. The Sam Paterson Award was set up in 2014 in memory of former drama tutor, Sam Paterson, who tragically and suddenly passed away. Set up by Sam's father, Ian Paterson, each

year a sum of money is awarded to a student who upon completion of their course is judged to have made the most of their opportunity to fulfil their potential. Cara has grown in confidence and proven to be a real asset to the Drama & Performing Arts department. She has consistently taken an active role in extracurricular activities

including the 'Watch This Space' enrichment geared towards young actors, giving new talent the chance to take risks, to challenge and motivate themselves and to embed the techniques required for a career in the arts. This culminated in performances at external venues last year, a great achievement as students got used to performing to live audiences for the first time since the pandemic. Cara wants to pave a career in the arts industry, having applied for auditions at a range of drama schools and already achieved offers at two universities to study drama. With her determination and ability to push herself, we have no doubt she will make her mark.

The work of all of our students was outstanding and a testament to their hard work, commitment and dedication, as well as that of our wonderful teaching staff. Well done and congratulations to everyone involved.





WILLIAM JEYNES - POLICE CADET

Back in May, congratulations went to Year 2 student, William Jaynes (formerly of Oathall Community College), who is a Police Cadet in Mid Sussex and gave a presentation to 1500 Sussex police cadets and dignitaries on the subject of 'Stop and Search'. At the end he was given his 'Passing Out Award' for completing his cadet training, but was then presented 'Cadet of the Year' award for West Sussex.

William, who studied Protective Services, Criminology and Photography, intends to have a career in either the Police force or The Army.



PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS VISIT BETHLEM MUSEUM

In June, 34 Year 1 A Level and BTEC Psychology students had a day out at the Bethlem: Museum of the Mind, in Beckenham. The hospital is the original 'Bedlam', one of the world's oldest hospitals for the treatment of mental illness. The day included an illustrated talk on the history of the hospital and mental health treatment; a tour around the interactive museum and gallery; and a fascinating workshop related to mental illness which encouraged students to question issues around patient diagnosis and treatment as well as other complex issues.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES CAREERS HUB

The week of 16-20 October saw us host a range of different speakers and workshops in relation to careers in the field of public and protective services.

The Army delivered a 'Full Interactive Roadshow' for students in which they demonstrated a range of 'small arms', including rifles, weapon sights, demo claymores and even hand-held anti-tank missile launchers.

Workshops were also provided by Sussex Police and Heart Smart, the latter of which taught students vital life-saving skills such as CPR.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Congratulations to our Young Enterprise Scheme students collecting their 'Journey Team Award' at the Sussex Finals at the Amex stadium back in May.

As part of the College's enrichment programme, the Young Enterprise Scheme is a programme wherein students established their own company called Voice of Students (VOS). Spurred by half the members being international and the other half home students, they organised successful social gatherings like games evenings, and established an additional retail component selling



merchandise such as hoodies in an effort to foster and nurture relations. Judges commended their innovative business idea and

the "highly original" manner in which it had successfully brought international and domestic students together.

VARNDEAN COLLEGE VISUAL ARTS SUMMER EXHIBITION 2023



Our annual end of year visual arts celebration once again showcased stunning and diverse work by more than 200 Varndean College students completing their A level courses in Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and 3D Design.

Head of Visual Arts Rob Macdonald said "This exhibition is the culmination of two years of creativity, passion and lots of hard work. It's a wonderful celebration of the stunning work from these artists/designers/photographers at the beginning of their careers as many are heading off to Art foundation or Degree courses after Varndean."

TEXTILES

Nell Dean-Gant was awarded a Textiles award for 'exceptional exploration of a powerful narrative'. Nell has produced consistently exceptional work and her personal investigation project centred around period poverty "An investigation into utilising consumerism products, fabricating them into conceptual visual and/or personal art forms." Josh Blackwell and Maria Thomas. Destination: Art Foundation at Brighton Met.

Coffee Pardoux was awarded a Textiles award for 'exceptional creativity'. Their personal investigation project was inspired by natural forms to create abstracted textiles art and fashion. Jylle Navarro and Vanessa Barragao Destination: Art Foundation at Brighton MET

Madeline Archer was awarded a Textiles award for 'exceptional of a personal narrative. Her project took inspiration from her childhood investigating personal development through stitch and collage in documentary textiles. Erin Endicott and Ali Ferguson

Molly Aberdour was awarded a Textiles award for 'exceptional creativity' for her intricate machine embroidery work. Illustration in Stitch - Exploring the work of Rosie James and Danielle McIntyre. Destination: London College of Fashion

Lucy Scourfield was awarded a Textiles award for 'exceptional exploration of a theme', exciting dent making and fabric manipulation techniques. Marian Jazmik Sue Hotchkis. Destination: Art Foundation at Brighton Met.

Nicole Field was awarded a Textiles Award for 'exceptional exploration and originality' for her original and exciting project Boro textiles and experimenting with bleaching, slashing and manipulating denim. An investigation into the use of embroidery and patchwork through the work of Louise Baldwin and looking into Japanese Boro textiles artist, Keiko Futatsuya. Future Destination: Brighton MET Art Foundation

ART

The winner of the Seawhite Prize was **Rebecca Holden**. Seawhite chose Rebecca for her amazing level of detail and creative use of surfaces to produce powerful figurative paintings.

The winner of the Draw Brighton prize was **Coffee Pardoux**. Coffee's work stood out as visceral and inventive, rendered with energetic, painterly marks.

The second winner of the Draw Brighton prize was **Flossie Battersby-Irvine**. Flossie's work presented something completely different, considered narrative paintings with well-designed colour schemes and an engaging use of pattern.

The winner of the Narwhal Prize was **Sammy Gibbs** for their incredible use of materials and 3D installation work

The winner of the Owen Harding Prize was **Izzy Orr** for her hard work and tenacity



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Our Graphic Design course is renowned for celebrating alternative approaches to design. Students relish the opportunity to explore handmade techniques as well as digital. This often leads to a diverse range of final outcomes as seen in the summer exhibition.

Jamie Jones received a recognition award for the use of his handmade font. He took inspiration from environmental graphics which led him to the challenge of moulding clay into letters of the alphabet. Jamie then used them in the design of a logo.

Dara Ings won an award for her meaningful and expressive final outcomes that focused on mental health, which instantly caught the attention of Dave Stephens, a previous tutor at Varndean. Dara's work utilised a range of handmade textures from found objects, torn paper and crumpled-up foil, which she scanned and creatively manipulated using Photoshop, allowing her to establish a unique personal style.



3D DESIGN

Nell Dean-Gant won the Product Design prize. She created two incredible projects, her coursework project concept was sustainable design, in which she created a vessel made of wax which could be melted down and reformed. Her exam unit was based on the theme 'Group of Objects', in which she created a group of pots inspired by three key places that were important to her.

Felix Growney won the Architecture prize for his exam piece. Felix created an organic sculptural piece of architecture set for part of the college site. He developed his ideas by recording students' movements around the space and levels of noise and activity which created the form for his incredible final outcome piece.

Esme Moore won the Design prize for both her chair and the lighting piece she created. Esme's exceptional exploration and investigation of materials, coupled with her determination to push her projects as far as she could, made her a worthy winner.

All awards were chosen and presented by artist and former Varndean 3D tutor, Bill Coyne.

PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Anne Howard Memorial Golden Shutter Award 2023 is given to students each year for excellence in Photography. Anne was a tutor at Varndean College for over 30 years and established photography as an A level and helped it to be the thriving course that it is today. Anne passed away in 2016 and with support from her family we present prizes to students in each of the Year 2 A level Photography groups to recognise their amazing achievements.

This year, the Anne Howard Memorial Golden Shutter Award was awarded to:

Reece Dawson, Tabitha Ashton-Prevett, Nell Dean-Gant, Isabelle Harris-Crisp, Marla Gangkofer and **Anya Breslaw**.

Aidan Gumbrell brought the contemporary style, the bling and colour to his eccentric fashion shots. **Reece Dawson** brought out the humour in his work and created wonderfully candid shots. **Tabitha Ashton-Prevett's** work was incredibly well observed, thorough,

detailed and focusing on natural elements. **Nell Dean Gant's** work was fully rounded in all aspects of 'art and design' and incredibly perceptive. **Isabelle Harris-Crisp** brought out the joy and happiness in everyone through her ethereal portraits. **Marla Gangkofer** brought style and substance to all her portraits capturing the essence of her subjects. **Anya Breslaw** enjoyed street photography and consistently produced striking results in her gentle manner.

On the 6th July, International Baccalaureate students across the world woke up anticipating the release of their Diploma programme results and the outcome of two years of hard work. Varndean College's IB class of 2023 were no doubt full of nerves, but had nothing to worry about as they collectively achieved outstanding world beating Diploma scores!

This cohort of students sat their first ever external examinations, having been awarded Teacher Assessed GCSE Grades by their high schools in 2021. Understandably they began the three-week window of assessment a little nervous but prepared, focused and resilient. All of this hard work has certainly paid off as the class of 2023 achieved an average point score of 36.19 out of 45, the equivalent to 3 A grades at A Level and up on the College's 2019 pre-pandemic average of 33.9.

One of our amazing students, Ella Tingley (pictured) achieved 44/45 points, the equivalent to 5 A* at A Level which puts her in the top 2% of all IB learners globally. Ella secured a place to study Civil Engineering at the University of Durham, but is going to reapply to study at Oxbridge.

Two students have headed to Oxford University to study PPE and Law, whilst another has gone on to study Medicine at UCL, and another due to study Engineering at a University in Austria. We also have students going to Leeds,

Edinburgh, Birmingham and York universities.

A number of students also scored 40+ points and are opting to take gap years, during which they will work, travel and volunteer carrying forward the values and philosophy of the International Baccalaureate.

Principal Donna-Marie Janson said: "We are immensely proud of our students, whatever results they achieved, as they really were an exceptional, engaged and wonderful group of young people. This year's achievements are fantastic and something to be so proud of. It is worth bearing in mind that the IB is equivalent to studying 5 A Levels as we celebrate these superb results."

Director of Curriculum Quality and Head of School for the IB, Lee Finlay-Gray said: "On behalf of all of the staff at Varndean College, I want to congratulate the IB class of 2023. They conducted themselves in a mature, focused

FREDDIE MOYLETT WITH TUTOR, JOHN LUTON



VARNDEAN COLLEGE IB STUDENTS DO IT AGAIN!



ELLA TINGLEY

ANNA ZHANG

and dedicated way at all times and it has been a pleasure to teach and support them over the past two years. We wish them all the best in the future and hope they can use the knowledge, skills and experience acquired on the Diploma in their endeavours.”

Varndean College is the only state funded provider of the prestigious IB Diploma in Sussex. Now in its 15th year of delivering the programme, students continue to achieve outstanding results and move on to world class universities. The IB Diploma offers students a broad but integrated curriculum whereby learners study six subjects, including English Literature, a modern foreign language, a humanities, a natural science, Mathematics and an additional subject of their choosing, alongside a critical thinking course and a university preparation dissertation component.



EARLY YEARS STUDENTS GAIN EXPERT KNOWLEDGE FROM VISITORS

The Childcare and Education department had various visiting speakers last term. Firstly, was a visit from 'Playful Therapy', talking about working in play therapy, what a play therapist is, how to become a play therapist, and supporting children through trauma and additional needs. Annie gave the students an honest picture of working as a play therapist, including the very real challenges of the role.

Other speakers included; Justin Parker and Jessica Linford from 'Vision for Education'. Students were given advice about CV writing, interview techniques, and applying for jobs within the education sector.

More recently, students had a fantastic day with Sarah Russell-Davis from Daisy First Aid to complete their Level 3 blended learning Paediatric First Aid qualification. With the first part completed online, our students learnt how to recognise medical emergencies, practice life-saving skills including using epi-pens and defibrillators and understand basic first aid as they get ready to start on their first placement next week.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION REUNION

Classical Civilisation students have been meeting up every year since leaving Varndean College to chat and reminisce about time spent at college. Strong bonds were forged in their time at Varndean during lessons and on trips to Rome and Greece and students have remained friends. It has been a wonderful experience hearing about their lives, careers, university experiences and families. The oldest student this time was Ollie aged 28, now working in finance. He landed the job because they were so impressed by his dissertation on 'Roman Tax Laws!' Students were full of praise for both Varndean and Classical Civilisation and their teachers. It was a fabulous evening.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE C3L6 CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Varndean students again competed in Cambridge University's annual C3L6 Chemistry Challenge. The C3L6 competition is open to Year 12 UK students and takes the form of a 90-minute written exam. Students are awarded certificates of achievement (either a copper, silver or gold award), and those who perform best win an invitation to a residential camp at the University of Cambridge. This year, Varndean students gained the highest number of medals ever, with 1 gold, 13 silver and 27 copper.



STEM FEST 2023

March saw Varndean College host its annual STEM Fest event, with talks being delivered by specialists throughout the week. Speakers were invited from various Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology professions, who came to provide informative and engaging talks about their work and career paths to their current position with a description of their typical working day. Speakers ranged from a specialist oncology nurse to marine engineers and from an Army doctor, civil engineers and a consultant paramedic to a senior liver transplant specialist.

This annual event is aimed mainly at students studying STEM subjects, but it also aligns with other subject areas such as Health & Social Care, Psychology, Geography and Environmental Science. It provides an ideal opportunity to bring education and skills together, helping STEM students understand the many avenues that are available to them at a critical, career decision-making time in their lives.

CHEMISTRY STUDENTS VISIT ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

On 18 September, seven A Level Chemistry students visited a youth summit at the Royal Institute of Artificial Intelligence. The day began with talks from professionals in the field of artificial intelligence, including the Christmas lecture guest speaker, Mike Woolridge.

The talks gave students an insight into everything AI, starting from what it is and what it can do, the laws that could be put in place and the ethical guidelines and laws that this technology is already interfering with. Progressing through the day they were able to explore the historical building and all the inventions that have come about as a result of the Royal Institute.

They were then taken into discussion rooms based on five topics discussed earlier in the day, such as ethics, governance and social implications of AI, and worked in collaboration with other students opening discussions on what their thoughts were about this technology.

Following this, one person from each group was selected to present their ideas to the professionals and the rest of the students in the lecture hall. Varndean led a discussion on the governance of AI where topics were discussed like who is responsible for the control of artificial intelligence: the Government, the companies or members of the general public. Attending this youth summit was a truly valuable experience for our students and being able to talk to some of the most knowledgeable people about this new and upcoming technology was extremely fascinating for them.



GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS GAIN OFF-SITE EXPERIENCE

Geography and Environmental Studies students have been blessed with a range of offsite trips last term.

In June, students went on an international trip to Toronto where they studied the recent changes and sustainability of the city. They looked at a Storm Water storage lake that is also now providing a wetland habitat as well as preventing waste water from entering Lake Ontario. They also visited Cabbage Town, a suburban area where local communities have taken initiatives to protect and enhance their environment. Of course, they also took in the tourist highlights of the city-region, such as the CN Tower, Toronto Islands and Niagara Falls.

Earlier in the summer, the Geography classes made their annual visit to the London Olympic site in Stratford. Here they were taken on a guided tour of the site focusing on the economic, social and environmental legacy of the 2012 games. This is an ideal time to be studying the legacy as more than 10 years have elapsed since the games.

Students also made their usual local field excursions to the Sussex coast and Lewes. Overall, a great summer of outdoor learning in the Geography and Environmental department.



TORONTO - CN TOWER



TORONTO - CABBAGE TOWN



CUCKMERE HAVEN



OLYMPIC PARK



NIAGARA FALLS



VISUAL ARTS TRIP TO ST IVES

Earlier this year our Visual Arts students visited the St Ives region which apparently has the greatest concentration of artists outside of Hackney.

With its ethereal light and rugged coastline, it has been a magnet for some of the UK's most renowned sculptors and painters. What better place to visit with a cohort of students who had missed out on so many trips in their education so far.

The journey down included a stop off at the Eden Project, a wealth of visual information for our 3D Design, Textiles, Photography, Graphics and Art A Level students. The following days consisted of visits to Leach Pottery workshop and tour, Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum, soap sculpture workshop, photography walks around town and Carbis Bay, abstract painting workshops with the St Ives School of Painting, as well as the now infamous Ghost Walk on a full moon night!

Students sketched and photographed what they saw, some took swims in the February sea and all had a marvellous time.

The trip home took everyone to a visit to Falmouth University which prides itself on outstanding arts facilities and courses - we were given talks and tours and lunch. We were particularly impressed with the state-of-the-art textiles and photography departments there.

SUCCESS FOR FORMER VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS

Former Vardean College student, James Avon, was one of just four artists internationally chosen to produce a design for thousands of debit Mastercards.

James, who studied Graphic Design, Sociology and English Language A Levels at Vardean from 2015-2017, went on to study an Art Foundation at Brighton Met, followed by Digital Design at the University of Brighton.

James told The Argus that he is a keen musician and created the design with a mash up of fluid movement and bright colours, layering them together in Photoshop much like he layers together the musical elements of a song. His winning design was called State of Flow.

Another former student, Selby Hurst Inglefield, who studied A Level Art, Photography and Textiles here from 2013-2015 and left with 2 A* and 1 A grade, and went on to study Art at Central St Martins UAL, is now an established UK textiles artist based in London. Selby uses the technique of rug punching/rug hooking and recently had her worked exhibited at The Knitting & Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, London. Domesticity was a prevalent theme throughout her exhibition and her interview can be found at www.selvedge.org/blogs/selvedge/selby-hurst-inglefield-at-the-knitting-stitching-show You can also visit her website at <https://selbyhi.com/>



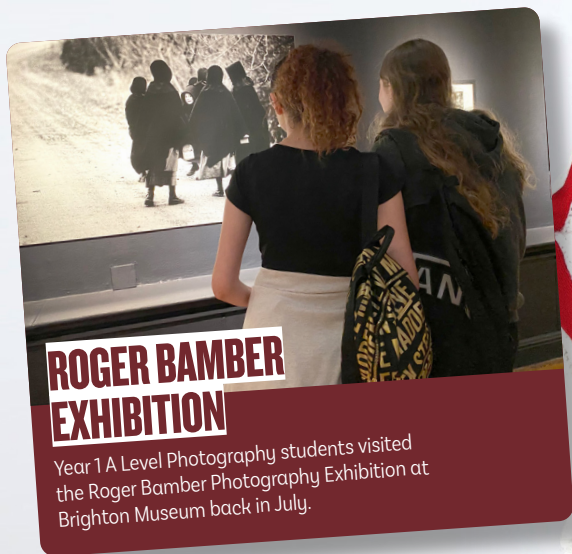
STITCH FESTIVAL 2023 FINALISTS!

Three of Varndean College's Year 2 Textiles students recently made it to the final of the London Stitch Festival 2023.

The Stitch Festival takes place at the Business Design Centre in London each year. This year, three of our Year 2 students were invited to attend the show as finalists in the festival's annual Dressmaking competition. Our students were shortlisted in three separate categories; Gabe Dodd - Menswear, Nicole Field - Upcycled/

Repurposed, and Molly Aberdour - Knitwear/Crochet.

This was a huge achievement for them all and staff and students all had a brilliant day. Students were able to showcase their work on the runway and had the opportunity to meet some of the stars of the festival including David Morrish from Kingfly Embroidery (as seen on TV Make it at Market BBC1), crochet queen Katie Jones, Josie Hawes from Fabric Godmother and Clive Bruder from We Sew Too.



ROGER BAMBER EXHIBITION

Year 1 A Level Photography students visited the Roger Bamber Photography Exhibition at Brighton Museum back in July.





COMING SOON – OUR EXCITING NEW QUADS RE-DEVELOPMENT

The College's two outdoor quadrangles are currently being transformed into brand new additional teaching space, together with amphitheatre style outdoor seating for students to enjoy in their break times or independent study times. Work to clear the existing area and prepare for the foundations commenced back in August during the summer holidays, with the steel structures recently being erected over the weekend of 7/8 October. Work is due to be completed by January 2024.

SUSTRANS UK VISIT VARNDEAN

Students who participate in the Climate and Environment enrichment programme had the pleasure of listening to Paul Turner from Sustrans UK in May.

Sustrans UK is the custodian of the National Cycle Network which covers 12,000 miles of signed routes and paths for cycling, walking and exploring the outdoors. A sustainable transport NGO, the talk touched on measuring air quality, the fatal consequences of air pollution and how we can contribute in enhancing the quality of the air we breathe. Statistics show that 44% of primary age pupils walk to school but these numbers decreased as students reach college age.

ETHAN POWERLIFTS HIS WAY TO SUCCESS

Congratulations to former Year 2 Sport & Exercise Science student, Ethan Wilson for securing 1st place in the UK Sub Junior National Powerlifting championships earlier this year. Ethan trained immensely hard, showing concentrated dedication and commitment, and was placed first in the 93kg weight category. Ethan, formerly of Downlands Community School, studied the Sport & Exercise Science National Diploma, alongside BTEC Applied Human Biology

