



**ASPIRING
MEDICS**



**IB ART
EXHIBITION**



**QUADS
TRANSFORMATION**



UPDATE

SPRING 2024



**CULTURE
DAY**

ASPIRE STUDENT, MARIA WAKEHAM, ACHIEVES PLACE ON PRESTIGIOUS RESIDENTIAL COURSE



MARIA WAKEHAM

Congratulations to one of our first-year Aspire Programme students, Maria Wakeham (formerly of Downlands Community School), who has been successful in obtaining a place on the 'World of Words' residential course at Christ's College, University of Cambridge at the end of March.

Maria studies A Levels in English Language, English Literature, Classical Civilisation and Philosophy and belongs to the Aspire Programme which gives support to students wishing to apply to top universities such as Cambridge and Oxford.

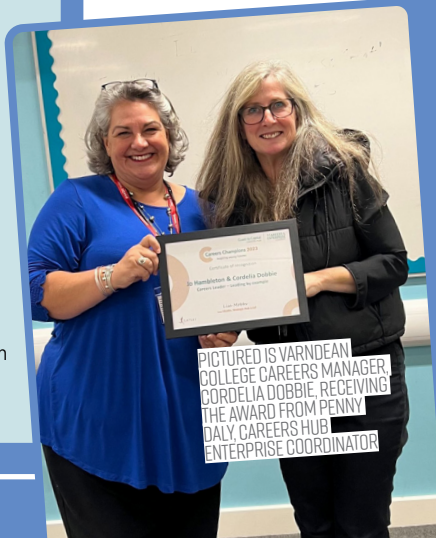
The residential course is a fantastic opportunity to work with Cambridge academics in areas of literature and culture that take sixth formers beyond the boundaries of their A Level or IB programmes. Jacob Lund, the Aspire Programme Coordinator for Humanities, said: 'we are delighted with Maria's achievement here, because we know that this sort of super-curricular work is so very valuable in further building the kind of intellectual curiosity we foster here in our students at Varndean.'

VARNDEAN COLLEGE AWARDED 'CAREERS CHAMPIONS 2023'

Varndean College was delighted to be awarded 'Careers Champions 2023' recently by The Careers and Enterprise Company, who asked local employers to nominate career leaders who have made a significant contribution to the careers and skills agenda.

Varndean was voted 'Careers Champions' for making the most significant contribution to developing links between education and the workplace, and for developing creative methods to enable skills development in young people and meeting the needs of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.

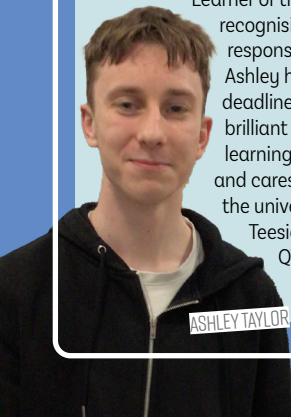
It was wonderful to have the work we are doing for careers and skills at Varndean College recognised.



PICTURED IS VARNDEAN COLLEGE CAREERS MANAGER, GORDELIA DOBBIE, RECEIVING THE AWARD FROM PENNY DALY, CAREERS HUB ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR

ASHLEY NOMINATED FOR LEARNER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Ashley Taylor, a second year student studying Childcare and Education who has been nominated for the NCFE 'Learner of the Year' as part of their aspiration awards recognising exceptional learners. Balancing responsibilities at home, a job and college work, Ashley has still completed the course before the deadline and achieved an A* in all 15 units. He is a brilliant practitioner, understanding how to make learning fun and is loved by the children he teaches and cares for. Ashley has been offered places at all the universities he applied to and will be moving to Teeside to study BA(Hons) Primary Education with QTS. We know he will be a total success and a fantastic teacher.



ASHLEY TAYLOR

BIG GREEN WEEK AT VARNDEAN

As part of March's Big Green Week, Sussex Green Living inspired our students with an eco-showcase. Their retrofitted milk float showcased sustainable solutions, while students enthusiastically participated in competitions, including the eco-wheel of fortune, with many exciting prizes at stake. Sussex Green Living emphasises the urgent need to educate on climate solutions using innovative approaches for both the public and schools.

We also played host to an enlightening talk from Professor Dan Osborne and Associate Professor Carla Washbourne from University College London (UCL), who delved into diverse career paths within Earth Sciences. From their personal journeys to highlighting the multitude of opportunities in the sector, they



urged students to 'think globally, act locally' in their quest to make a positive impact on our planet. From academia to NGOs, local initiatives, and beyond, the possibilities are endless for those passionate about a career in Earth Sciences.

Also taking place was a captivating talk by Hemantha Perera Trevelyan on sustainability in design, which left our students inspired and ready to make a difference. Looking into



PROFESSOR DAN OSBORNE

why sustainability matters, Hemantha shared insights into her eclectic roles within the sector, as well as different pathways to pursue a career in sustainability.

VARNDEAN APPOINTS COLLEGE CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Varndean College is very pleased to announce the appointment of three students who will be the College's Climate Champions. They are Fred Kay-Lambert, Lana Clark and Anouk Parker-Tregcoat (pictured).

We are very excited to have them on board and look forward to seeing them progress the College's sustainability agenda. The main elements of their role will be:

- to aid understanding of the issues and concerns relating to climate change, biodiversity and environmental degradation. This will include training staff and students on these issues.
- to encourage the college community and individuals to engage with the Climate Action Road Map process.
- to take an active role in appropriate college/community events.
- to act as champions to promote the work of CEAG (the College's sustainability committee) in addition to teaching staff about climate and environmental issues so staff can feel confident about embedding sustainability into their curriculum.

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

On 14 March, the College hosted its annual Apprenticeship Fair where students discovered a diverse range of local and national apprenticeship vacancies.

Students connected with organisations including PGL, The Grand Hotel, HOP Consulting, Costain, Southern Water, Carpenter Box, NHS, Sussex Police and many others.

A massive thank you to all providers who took the time to engage with our students!



FRED KAY-LAMBERT, LANA CLARK AND ANOUK PARKER-TREGOAT (BELOW).

IB VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS EXHIBIT THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK

Earlier in March we recognised the work of our incredibly talented IB Visual Arts students when their work was put on display for everyone to view. For five days, staff and students had the opportunity to view an array of impressive artwork, with a separate private viewing being held for students' families.

Year 2 student, Dorothy Hepburne (formerly of Varndean School), who had one of her pieces chosen for the exhibition's publicity poster, is pictured here with her two proud grandmothers who came to view her amazing work.

Dorothy explored the themes of change and transformation through portraiture. She looked



at the way connections between family members can appear to bridge the gap between the past and the present whilst simultaneously emphasising the time that has passed. By fragmenting portraits with light and mirrors, or dissolving the subjects into their surroundings or themselves, she hoped to convey a sense of impermanence and transition. Dorothy was inspired by Emilio Villabla's fractured portraits and Joanna Nam's use of lighting and colour to give her paintings a fantastical atmosphere.



STUDENT COUNCIL MEET WITH A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

On Friday 23 February, the College held a Student Council meeting. From reflecting on past successes to generating innovative ideas, it was a collaborative effort aimed at fostering positive change within the College community.

With our dedicated Student Union leading the session, and Vice Principal, Lisa Watkin-Stevens, kickstarting the meeting with an inspiring talk about the importance these collaborative meetups, students were then split into groups for idea generation sessions, exploring ways to enhance their experience as members of the Student Council.



SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE VISIT FROM INSTITUTE OF EMPLOYMENT STUDIES

In January, our A Level Sociology students received a visit from Kate Alexander from the Institute of Employment Studies. Kate discussed how studying Sociology can lead to a career in social research. She explained about some of the research she has carried out on the impact that Covid has had on work and pay (particularly for those in low paid jobs with zero hours contracts), and explained practical routes into social research as a career.



CAREERS SPOTLIGHT WORKSHOPS

Varndean continued with its hugely successful and inspirational Careers Spotlight Workshops this last term. Our A Level Business students had the opportunity to take part in a Business Careers immersive workshop run by Hannah Coe from the University of Surrey. The workshop incorporated marketing theory and practices and reflected on the role and activities of the marketing teams in a wide range of businesses.

In January, our Drama and Performing Arts students listened to Kim Byford, Director for the Talent Accelerator Project at the De La Warr Pavilion, who delivered an

insightful presentation on the diverse career opportunities within the creative industries. During her talk, Kim shared recent figures indicating that the creative industry significantly contributes £115.9 billion in Gross Value Added to the UK economy. Remarkably, this surpasses the combined contributions of the aerospace, automotive, life sciences, and oil and gas sectors! The session featured engaging Zoom interviews with a variety of creative professionals, providing valuable insights and perspectives for students to explore. Our 3D Design students were treated to a captivating talk and

activity session with designer and entrepreneur, Richard Palmer. Richard shared his career journey, offering valuable insights into the dynamic world of design and entrepreneurship. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Helen Hauduc, fashion & knitwear designer for high street brand Fat Face, to speak to our Textiles students on 1st March. Helen shared so much wonderful insight into her role, how her background in graphic design influenced her work, her experiences working with Antoni and Allison and the design and manufacture process in her current role.

GREEN CAREERS WEEK - CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As part of the nationwide series of events for Green Careers Week in November, Varndean College hosted Claire Potter from the University of Sussex, who presented a very informative and useful talk on the circular economy.

She discussed the different opportunities that are present, not only in the green sector, but in a variety of other sectors. Students studying the IB Environmental Systems and Societies course, as well as BTEC Environmental Sustainability, were able to benefit from the ideas that were presented.

She also provided details into the role that design plays in the circular economy, with a focus on some examples of how green pathways can be shown through product design and discuss entry into suitable careers that students would not have considered. The talk provided



an opportunity for the college to help create students who are well versed in the circular economy and how that can be applied in product/3D design as well as service design and behaviour change amongst other examples.

Green Careers Week is supported by STEM UK, The Royal Society and the Met Office.



CHEMISTRY NEWS

Aspiring medics gain invaluable interview experience

In January, our aspiring medical, veterinary and dentistry students had the opportunity to participate in a day of university pre-interview practice.

The students were fortunate to have the expertise of three former International Baccalaureate students who came back to Varndean for the day to talk to our students:

Magdalena Lech (formerly from Bedes), who is currently in her final year of studying Medicine at the University of Southampton. In 2021 Magda successfully completed her dissertation in anaesthetics and critical care, for which she achieved a First.

Portia Smith (formerly from Brighton College), also now in her final year studying Medicine at the University of Cambridge.

Anna Zhang (formerly of Varndean School), one of our very recent leavers, who is in her first year of studying Medicine at University College London.

Students were put through their paces with questions about resilience, the NHS, the junior doctors' strike, medical ethics, communication, teaching and teamwork.

Dr Chris Van Tulleken gives fascinating insight into the ultra-processed foods market

A group of Chemistry students also attended a talk by Dr Chris Van Tulleken at the University of Sussex in January. The fascinating talk

was about ultra-processed foods and the role big manufacturing companies play in making and marketing them.

Med Vet Dent ASPIRE students shine in Global Ethics Competition

We are thrilled to announce the remarkable accomplishment of our Year 1 Med Vet Dent ASPIRE programme students in the University of Oxford's Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition 2024.

Zoe Oliver, Polly Ashton-Prevett, Sienna Chan, and Aisha Zia demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication, earning themselves a place among the top ten globally with their outstanding video entry. Their submission stood out among entries from teams worldwide and was honoured as one of seven Highly Commended entries in the competition.

The competition, attracting teams from Years 11-13, tasked participants with creating videos addressing ethical dilemmas and exploring the concept of responsibility.

The global participation spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America makes this achievement even more impressive. Being placed within the elite top ten entries is a testament to the hard work, creativity, and ethical insight of our students.

This accomplishment reflects the excellence and commitment to ethical awareness within our enrichment ASPIRE programme. Congratulations to the students and their mentor Emma-Jayne Hanner for this outstanding achievement.

Varndean students excel in 2024 RSC UK Chemistry Olympiad

Twenty one Varndean A Level and IB Chemistry students entered the 2024 Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad and this year won 3 Gold, 15 Silver and 3 Bronze awards.

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. To receive a Bronze award, participants have to score between 10-17 marks, Silver 18-29, and for the prestigious Gold award 30 plus.

This year, there were a staggering 14,915 applicants from 1,025 schools across the UK, a new participation record.

Pictured are just some of the students who took part this year, alongside their Chemistry tutor, John Luton. Congratulations to everyone, very well deserved.

A PLETHORA OF TRIPS

Language students get immersive experience abroad

In November, Year 2 French students enjoyed a week in Montpellier, France. A level and IB French students stayed with host families and experienced a truly immersive week, attending a language school and receiving certificates from the EU for completing a 20-hour course. They also visited the Roman town of Nîmes and had a wonderful time sightseeing in the South of France.

A Level and IB Spanish students also went to Valencia to be part of a language immersion program. Staying with host families and

taking lessons at the Taronja Language School, students commented: "It was an amazing experience, would do again", "it was super fun and it really helped with my Spanish", "the mixture between lessons and cultural activities was excellent."

University Psychology Taster Day

A Level & BTEC Psychology students participated in a Psychology Taster Day at the University of Brighton. The students participated in a range of sessions including: an active session on the research undergraduates conduct, eye-tracking experiments on consumer behaviour, change blindness tasks, electroencephalograms, the development of robotic animals to replace pets in environments where animals are not allowed, a lecture on the typical structure of a psychology degree, the mind/body connection debate, cognitive psychology, research and much more!

Brighton Magistrates Court

In January, our Year 1 A Level Law students attended Brighton Magistrates Court.

The students were able to observe how the Criminal Justice System works (and sometimes doesn't work!). Our gratitude, as always, goes to the Justices who were the guides on both enlightening days.

Sport

In February, A Level PE and BTEC Sport & Exercise students assessed their aerobic and anaerobic fitness at Chichester University's Sport Science labs. Two immersive visits took place and allowed students to translate classroom knowledge into practical application. A great experience and amazing opportunity for all.

This was followed in March by a trip to the AMEX Stadium for a Careers Fair, where students explored the diverse range of opportunities available to women and non-binary

individuals in football. Hosted by Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club in celebration of International Women's Day and National Careers Week, the event served as a platform for students to delve into the various career paths within sport and fitness. Throughout the morning, they delved into careers spanning from grounds staff to analysts, and legal to catering.

Visual Arts students go Parisian style

In February, art/design/photography students spent four days in Paris and enjoyed a rainy but sparkling Eiffel Tower, learnt about Street Art with a local artist, visited the stunning Iris Van Herpen exhibition at Musée des Arts Décoratifs, glimpsed the reconstruction of the Notre Dame from a river cruise along the Seine, saw masterpieces of French Impressionism at Musée d'Orsay and squeezed in the cutting-edge fashion

photography of Viviane Sassen at Maison Européenne de la Photographie. A Level Textiles student Evie Davison sums it up best "I would describe the Paris trip as being saturated with life changing art and experiences."

Clock Tower Sanctuary

Business Studies students recently had a tour of the Clock Tower Sanctuary, a local charity for homeless 16-25 year olds, including by a Q&A session on why the charity is successful as a business and a talk from a caseworker on the nature of work they undertake.



PARIS ART TRIP





VARNDEAN COLLEGE'S CREATIVE MEDIA STUDENTS EXCEL ON SET!

In December, Varndean's Creative Media students delved into filmmaking with dedication and professionalism, working alongside a professional crew in a project for a real client.

Later in March, they started preparing for an adrenaline-fueled ride with 'Finders Keepers', a thrilling action-comedy film made possible by their vibrant talents and supported by a dream team of seasoned film industry professionals.

Students will be stepping onto set, mastering soundscapes, wielding cameras, rigging lights and

more. They'll be right in the thick of it, soaking up every invaluable moment of on-set action in key roles. With backing from the Sussex Film Council, this is a golden opportunity for these budding creatives to shine, learn and make their mark in the film industry, wrapping with an official feature film credit before reaching university. The film will feature an amazing key casting of Varndean Drama Students too. 'Finders Keepers' hits streaming in the first quarter of 2025. It's a testament to the boundless potential of collaboration, creativity, and sheer passion for storytelling our students have.

CULTURE DAY

Varndean College's successful Culture Day returned again for its second year on 7 March. The event showcased the vibrant tapestry of our student community. From India to Zanzibar, it was a colourful celebration of the College's cultural diversity and unity. Students took pride in sharing their heritage, from mouth-watering dishes representing various cultures, to traditional attire and lively catwalk performances.

The event buzzed with energy and enthusiasm, with funds being raised for Doctors Without Borders, reflecting our commitment to making a positive impact globally and supporting those in need across the world. George Marshall, Director of Student Engagement, said, "I'm incredibly thankful to all students and their families for their support in this College community celebration."



ARTEMII TEPOV MAKES ENGLAND FREESTYLE SKIING NATIONAL TEAM

A massive well done to Year 1 student, Artemii Teplov, who is a member of the England freestyle skiing national team!

In February, he clinched fifth position in the Men's Free ski Slopestyle competition held in Mayrhofen, Austria.

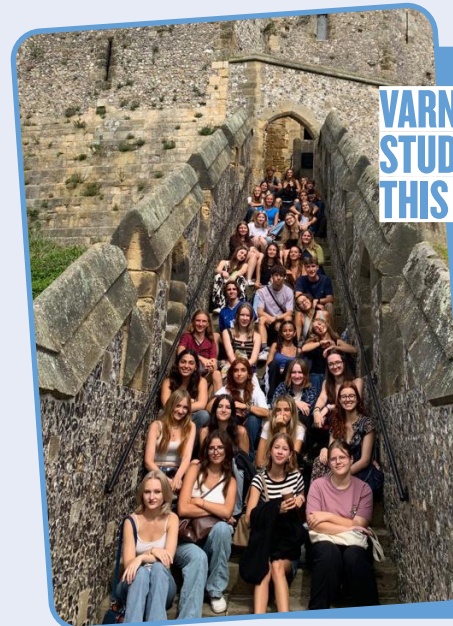
Artemii is currently studying Computer Science, Double Maths, and Engineering. He says about his success: "The main thing about any sport is to have fun while doing it and success and prizes will come along with it."



SUCCESS FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE STUDENTS

A massive well done to our hard-working second year Health & Social Care National Diploma students who have successfully completed their 100 hours of work placement.

Three of them have already been offered employment in their placement settings - a great start to their careers. Students continue to enhance their learning about the health and social care sector, with talks this year from a variety of local speakers including a Midwife, Care Manager, Occupational Therapists, an Accessibility Officer from Brighton Buses and an Ethics in Research Consultant. Several students have already accepted university offers in Midwifery, Nursing, Paramedic Practice and Social Work and will be taking their knowledge into their courses. Great work!



VARNDEAN HAS WELCOMED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM 21 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THIS YEAR

After just one term studying with us, fabulous feedback has been received. Here are the thoughts from our Brazilian and Italian students:

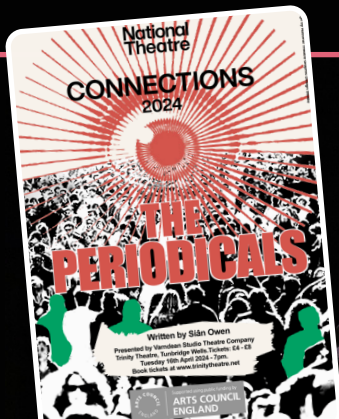
'I have become way more independent and confident'

'The teachers are really enthusiastic and love the subjects they are teaching'

'I have learnt how to behave in new situations and to manage unexpected events with a positive attitude'

'I have learnt how to make friends and create relationships far away from home'

'Although I wanted to come to the UK, I was also really frightened to begin with, but have loved the friendly environment and the kindness of the staff'



NATIONAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS, TRIPS AND THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Spring is always a busy time of year for our incredible Drama Team, but this term has been their busiest to date.

A total of 15 different productions have been produced by Drama students, from the Foundation Diploma's beautiful Mask Theatre show, Memories, through to Complicité inspired second year A Level devised productions coupled with moving naturalistic pieces.

Year 1 A Level Drama have created Brechtian retellings of Antigone for their Theatre Workshop unit and all of these were enjoyed by visiting audiences, friends,

families and staff. Topping this off is a visit from the National Theatre to watch the Year 1 Foundation Diploma students present The Periodicals ahead of the production moving to Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on 16 April for the National Theatre Connections 2024 programme.

Theatre visits aplenty have included seeing Gecko Theatre's Kin at The National Theatre with a private post-show Q and A with Gecko's Artistic Director Amit Lahav.

The School of Drama was established last term to bring

together our drama student community to celebrate each other's work and provide mentoring and support and this has been a real success - even allowing Year 2 students space to try out their drama school audition pieces for the assembly.

Upcoming productions to look out for: Earthquakes in London on 1 May and the Drama Society's production Working Title which will be the inaugural production in Varndean College's brand-new outdoor amphitheatre on 13 and 14 June.

GOLD STATUS STUDENTS

Congratulations to all our students who attained Gold Status for goal-setting during the Autumn term. Gold status is awarded to students who consistently set and achieve goals related to academic progress, progression planning, and overall well-being. All students were presented with Varndean College hoodies and one lucky student's name was selected at random to also win a £50 voucher.

Pictured is Year 1 student Libby Pook (formerly of Peacehaven Community School), whose name was selected, being presented with her voucher by Principal, Donna-Marie Janson. Libby is currently studying A Levels in Early Modern History and Psychology, as well as a Level 3 Performing Arts Diploma.



CHILDCARE & EDUCATION DIPLOMA STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT INTO TEACHING

In January, our first year Childcare & Education Diploma students enjoyed an 'Education Taster Day' at the University of Brighton. After a brief introduction looking at routes into teaching, the students were given a tour of the campus, a subject taster playing with robots, followed by a tasty lunch. The afternoon included a look at student life, a talk on finance and an ambassador Q&A.



CITIZENS UK ORGANISE VARNDEAN COLLEGE AND LABOUR MP MEET UP

In February, Varndean College Principal, Donna-Marie Janson, and one of the College's Student Union Presidents, Aisha Al-najjar, met up with Labour MP Peter Kyle to build a relationship and to establish how his work can be connected to what our students do locally and in college, including the Mental Health and Voting Registration Campaign.

The meeting was organised by the Citizens UK Alliance, who bring together communities and local organisations to build a better, fairer society. We are so proud to be part of this alliance.



FESTIVE TIMES AT VARNDEAN COLLEGE



Health & Social Care student raise money for charity

Some very festive Health & Social Care students volunteered to help raise money for local charities on the Santa Bus in Peacehaven leading up to Christmas. In total, £37,620 was raised across 20 different Santa Bus charities. Great fun was had by all!

Textiles students create tree with a difference!

Our Year 1 A Level Textiles students created a festive tree with a difference in December! They were asked to re-design and make clothes for a doll using only recycled and repurposed materials. Their amazing and varied creations were then

showcased in the style of a festive tree which stood proudly in the College foyer.

This project followed the success of last year's sustainability venture, where A level Textiles students designed and made aprons from recycled materials and collaborated with Photography and Graphics students to create posters promoting sustainability around the college.

Not only did this project showcase the students' amazing creations but was also a reminder of Varndean College's commitment to be a leading college for climate action. NB: All the dolls used in creating this tree were pre-loved and rescued from landfill.

Festive card design winner

Congratulations went to Year One student, Grace Savage, who was the 2023 winner of our Festive Card design competition. Grace (formerly of St Paul's Catholic College) is studying A Levels in Graphic Design, English Language & Literature and Early Modern History, and is pictured here being presented with her cash prize by Principal, Donna-Marie Janson. Grace's truly imaginative design captured the eye of the senior management team and was used as the official Varndean College card.





JOE OVERY

ENGLAND SQUAD CALL UP

Congratulations to Joe Overy, a dedicated student in the RMA Varndean College Education Programme, who this season earned himself a place in the prestigious England College Football Squad and in February competed in the Roma Caput International tournament. Jay Lovett, Head Coach, said "We are immensely proud of Joe. He's an exciting talent and I'm confident he'll excel in his upcoming fixtures for England." This marks the fifth consecutive year that an RMA Varndean College player has proudly put on the Three Lions shirt. Congratulations Joe and the best of luck for the future.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS ACHIEVE TOP 10% SCORE IN UK NATIONAL CODING COMPETITION

Five Varndean College students entered the national coding competition UK Bebras on Tuesday 14 November. The Bebras Computing Challenge is organised in over 60 countries worldwide and is designed to introduce computational thinking to students and get them excited about computing. Last year, over 365,000 students took part in the UK alone, with over 3 million worldwide.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce therefore that two of our Ukrainian refugee students, Artem Potomkin and Kostiantyn Semenenko, achieved a top 10% score in the Elite age category (16-18 years) and have been invited to compete in the Oxford University Coding Competition (OUCC) where Round 1 will take place in January 2024.

Congratulations to both Artem and Kostiantyn and we wish them all the best of luck for their next competition in January. Pictured is Artem receiving his certificate from Varndean Computer Science Tutor and Programme Leader, Tim Bowry.

ARTEM POTOMKIN WITH PROGRAMME LEADER TIM BOWRY



VARNDEAN COLLEGE HOSTS AN ABUNDANCE OF INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS

On 10 November, Varndean College had the privilege of hosting Green MP for Brighton and Hove, Caroline Lucas. Caroline spoke with students about how her interest in politics was driven by her firm conviction that the environmental issues facing the planet were not being addressed. She also talked about her love of poetry and literature and how helpful these subjects had been to her success when forging her career in politics. Students were inspired by her drive and commitment and will no doubt be keen to read her forthcoming book.

Students commented: "We valued hearing someone speak so highly of English/Humanities and its many useful applications." and "The Q&A was really insightful and enlightening, plus it was fun. It provided a lot of useful information and was educational as well."

The following week, the Politics Society welcomed Tim Loughton, Conservative MP for East Worthing and Shoreham, who answered questions from students about Gaza, Rwanda, same-sex marriage and civil partnerships, as well as the next General Election.

On 24 November, it was a full classroom again with students again gathered to hear from Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP for Brighton Kemp Town and Peacehaven. Lloyd shared his journey into politics and his roles in Parliament sitting on select committees and going to the next COP.

Later in January, saw another full house with students listening to Hove and Portslade Labour MP, Peter Kyle who inspired students and answered questions about his career in politics.

Also in January, we had the pleasure of hosting former student, Sam Woolven, for an insightful talk. Sam shared his valuable experiences in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, focusing on his impactful work in gender and equality. He also delved into the diverse career paths within the Civil Service. Reflecting on the visit, Sam said, "It was inspiring to return to my sixth form college, Varndean, and talk to students at the Politics Society about my career in diplomacy. Their energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of international affairs was evident. The Foreign Office needs more people like them to join in the coming years."

The following week saw the return of another Varndean alumni, Mark Collins, who talked about his career in the Civil Service with jobs ranging from divorce courts to nuclear non-proliferation.

A LEVEL POLITICS STUDENTS CHALLENGE FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

In January, our Year 1 A Level Politics students participated in a "Learn with the Lords" interactive Q&A session. Students took part in a live video link with Baroness Angela Harris of Richmond DL, a Liberal Democrat life peer and former Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords, where they engaged in questions and answers in relation to Baroness Harris's extensive political career.



QUADS TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE

After seven months of extensive building work, the College is excited to finally have access to its brand-new quads' redevelopment, funded by the UK Government's Post-16 Capacity Fund.

The transformation of these two areas is incredible and staff are now able to utilise four new additional classrooms, two breakout rooms, with new outdoor amphitheatre style seating space created for students to enjoy during their independent study or break times.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks all our students and staff for their endurance and patience during this disruptive time.



SUCCESS AT UK MATHS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the 70 Varndean Maths students who participated in the UKMT Maths Challenge, they all did fantastically well.

Special mentions to Carter McGee, Seokhan Lee, Harry Hammond, Matilda Daniels, Constantinos Foot (Best in school!), Alba Braham (Best in year!), Ani Wright and Matti Rogers who scored Gold Awards.

Constantinos & Alba will both be participating in the British Maths Olympiad this week as a result of scoring so highly in the Senior Maths Challenge. Good luck to you both.