

Uplifting Leadership with PwC

Ed Hawkings reporting...



On Friday 19th May, we were privileged to have a team of six staff from PwC deliver two workshops on Leadership skills to some of our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. PwC is also known as Pricewaterhouse Coopers and is a multi-national company specialising in auditing the financial records of businesses and offering advice on important aspects of companies through their consultancy services. Leadership skills were explored with the PwC staff through a variety of activities. One very challenging task was with a stick called a helium stick, which at times appeared to defy the laws of gravity. The

idea is that all members of the team must have their index fingers on both hands in contact with the stick and that they work together to lower it to the ground - confusingly many of the first attempts resulted in the stick ending up higher than it started! There were other interesting activities and a topic to debate, followed by generating a tweet of no more than 140 characters to summarise the final viewpoint, needing to be concise and punchy. The event was very successful since it challenged thinking in ways which proved to be highly enjoyable for both our pupils and the PwC staff.

Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

YEAR 10 PREFECTS

Now that Year 11 pupils have almost finished their time at Sweyne Park in terms of Key Stage 4, we are in the process of considering the next cohort of main school prefects. This is a rigorous process and everyone who applies should be commended for this. The first round of successful prefects will be acknowledged at a special assembly on Thursday 29th June. Those pupils who have been successful will shortly receive a letter inviting families to attend.

STAYING SAFE

Although the nights are now shorter, it is still always worth discussing staying safe with your son and daughter on a regular basis. This includes children always telling their parents/carers where they

are going, avoiding isolated areas, especially if alone, and not talking to strangers. Whilst we regularly discuss such matters in school and staff routinely do community walks and duties, it is always a good idea to reinforce this at home. Please also remind your children about sun cream if they are going to be involved in sporting or outdoors activities. Thank you.

PREMISES UPDATE

As I mentioned in last week's Sweyne Park Times, we have finally sorted out the tarmac and potholes at both entrances to the school, and I am delighted to say that we have not had to use our own school funds for this! Thank you for your forbearance over many years while we looked to get this resolved. We have also made improvements to our main school hall over the holidays, and the work on the flood defence project, which will not only protect the school but also local residents in the future, is continuing on schedule.

Cont/d...

Book of the Week

RESURRECTION: SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT
by Derek Landy

A lot has changed since the "end" of the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series, although there are still bad people wanting to do bad things. Skulduggery learns of a plot to resurrect a terrifying evil and persuades Valkyrie to join him for just twenty-four hours. But they need an ally, someone to go undercover. Not a warrior, not a Chosen One, but a



teenage boy who doesn't even know which class he should be in at school!

Headlines (Continued)

HIGHER EDUCATION EVENING

On Tuesday 20th June, at 7pm we are holding a Higher Education Evening in the main hall, during which Year 12 students and parents will be provided with an overview of the HE sector, the university application process and points for students to consider in advance of making an application. Dr Robertson and Mrs Clements will be available to answer questions after the presentation.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Thank you to all those families who regularly update us with changes to emergency contact numbers, and ensure that we have more than one person to contact. If your details have changed, please do let Pupil Services know. In addition, we will be actively contacting any families where we do not have sufficient emergency contact numbers, to ensure that we can always get hold of someone in the unlikely event that we need to. Thank you.

DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

James, Benjamin, Eloise, Paddy, Max & Anna (7SCm)

Samuel, Ellie, Lily & Harry (7CWii)

Pupil Services

THANK YOU

Mrs Blakesley for donating some office equipment which is much appreciated.

Mrs Ashton for donating textiles which will be very useful.

FINANCE VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Finance Assistant, to start in September 2017. Full details can be seen on the school website, with the relevant application forms for you to download, complete and return. The closing date for applications is Friday 7th July at 4pm.



National College



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Gold



Government & Politics

Jo Mackintosh reporting...

The past year has certainly presented a fascinating exploration into the changing nature of politics! With Brexit, the US presidential race and the snap election, our A Level students have been tasked with keeping up with the fast paced and ever-changing landscape of British and international politics. Both Year 12 and Year 13 students have done incredibly well to utilise their knowledge of the way people vote, the political systems in place and the ideologies that are core to political beliefs to help them understand the vast changes that have taken place this year. We have seen the students fully embrace their passion for politics by participating in our annual mock debate, this time in the format of BBC's Question Time. The panellists were superb and held their own against the scrutiny of our very own David Dimbleby, Dr Robertson. For the first time this year, we also saw Key Stage 3 pupils take to the floor and participate in a mock General Election debate. The debate was fierce, with pupils demonstrating incredible maturity and enthusiasm. Definitely some budding politicians amongst them! As the exam season is under way, we wish all our AS and A2 students the very best of luck with their exams.

Sixth Form mock Question Time debate:

On Wednesday 29th March, a panel of Year 12 and Year 13 Politics students faced an audience for a mock debate in the style of BBC Question Time. Rather than representing political parties, students braved questions from Year 7 to 11 pupils and spoke about their own flourishing political views and ideas. Not surprisingly, questions focused heavily on Brexit, funding for the NHS and education, as well as the state of the UK's 'special relationship' with America in light of Donald Trump's election. The audience were keen to challenge our panel and the students represented themselves very well.



Sixth Form mock Question Time debate



Year 7 panellists and researchers



Year 9 panellists and researchers



Year 8 panellists and researchers



Mock General Election debate

Mock General Election debate

With so many pupils having participated in previous debates as audience members, on Tuesday 6th June, Key Stage 3 pupils had the chance to take control and be panellists. In preparation for the General Election two days later, representatives of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green parties responded to questions from the audience. Our Year 7 panel went first, outlining their parties' views on issues such as the proposed Brexit deal and funding for the NHS. Next up, Year 8 debated the issues surrounding why the election was called in the first place and faced some tough questioning on the suitability of their party leader as Prime Minister. Finally, our extensive Year 9 panel addressed questions about national security and immigration. Our Chair, Dr Robertson, certainly didn't tread lightly with these pupils! All of our panellists and researchers were an absolute credit to their year group and it was fantastic to see so many pupils from the lower school engaging with politics and expressing their thoughts. Part of the aim of our debate was to establish whether the audience's vote would change after the debate and interestingly, we saw a dramatic swing in the way many pupils voted, clearly showing the influence of our panellists.