

The Headmaster
Will Brooks, B.A., P.G.C.E.,
M.B.A. (Ed)



BRAMBLETYE

Dear Parents,

17th December 2018

HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER



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CHRISTMAS at BRAMBLETYE

Brambletye, as you may well know, does Christmas rather well. Here are some of the festivities, celebrations and excitement that we enjoyed over the last two weeks of term:

- The Boarders' Disco,
- Dormitory Christmas Decoration,
- Santa visiting the Pre-Prep in his grotto,
- Pre-Prep Carols around the Christmas Tree,
- A Christmas Tea and concert for the senior citizens of Ashurst Wood,
- Ballroom Dancing Club Ball
- The Christmas Lunch,
- The Christmas Feast,
- The Pre-Prep Nativity,
- Advent Hymns and Carols, and
- The Carol Service.

The Carol Service was an absolute triumph! I was thrilled with the quality of our readers, the confidence of our soloists and of course the magnificent rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus by the combined Choir of parents, staff and children. What a fitting finale to another wonderful term! A parent kindly wrote to me and I quote, *“The Carol Service was amazing and the musical repertoire extraordinary. Mrs A and Mrs Selleck deserve hearty congratulations. The Hallelujah Chorus was beautifully sung and was a wonderful picture of the Brambletye community in action.”*



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

This term saw the very exciting introduction of our new “Enrichment Programme” on Thursday afternoons. The programme covers all aspects of life at Brambletye that extend beyond the classroom. We are looking to develop individual passions and interests and to create a culture where discovery and exploration is celebrated. The aim is to develop our pupils’ interests, imagination, skills and emotions through a rich programme of activities run by our hugely talented staff. Below are just some of the sessions that your children will have experienced this term:



Bushcraft Skills

Japanese

Cooking

Screenwriting

Hovercraft building

Community Links

Ukulele Band

Computer Animated Design

Photography

Lego Animation

Please watch the results of the Hovercraft building below!!

HoverCraft video <https://vimeo.com/304853029>



PRIZE GIVING

House Sports & Music Cup	Marlborough
House Duty Cup	Drake
House Good Conduct Cup	Nelson
House 'Golds' Cup	Nelson
House 'Pinks' Cup	Drake
House Stars and Minuses Cup	Nelson
House Shield	Drake



Individual **Star Prizes** were awarded to:

Golds: Emilia J, Rose, Jack, Grace, Robin, Thomas, Ella, Sophie, William, Phoebe, Blake, Elliott, Rebecca, Josh, Matthew, Matthew, Christopher.

Pinks: Year 3 – Ida, Year 4 – Jessica, Year 5 – Ivan, Year 6 – Isabelle, Year 7 – Polly, Year 8 – Pech

Send-Up Prizes: Thomas, Thomas, Edward, Phoebe, William, Rebecca

Appointments and Promotions:

Head Boy:	Ralph
House Officers:	Marlborough - Phoebe; Nelson - Sophia, Mya, Arabella
Captain of Netball:	Mya
Captain of Rugby:	Max C
Vice-Captain of Rugby:	Max G
Captains of Cross Country:	Issey and Ralph
Captain of Squash:	Will
Junior Chapel Choir Head Chorister:	Georgina



STAFF

Goodbyes & Hellos

Very sadly, at the end of this term, we have said farewell to Rowena Pulvermacher, Emily Martin and Kate McPherson. All three of them have made incredibly valuable contributions to this school and we will miss them enormously.

We will also be welcoming 3 new members of staff next term and I have included a small biography on each of them.

Charis Wightman (English)

Charis recently completed an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. As part of the qualification, she has written a fiction book for Young Adults. During her 5 years at Repton Dubai, Charis was Head of Year, where she led a team of 11 teachers and 5 Teaching Assistants, and was then promoted to Head of English, responsible for the coordination, teaching and learning of the English curriculum for over 1600 children and 60 teaching staff whilst teaching full time in Years 5 and 6. Charis then moved to be a founding member of their sister school, Foremarke Dubai, where she was also Head of English and Head of Year. During this time and through these roles, she has delivered training to all staff on the teaching of outstanding lessons, how to ensure high standards and excellent and purposeful assessment and how to teach reading successfully, as well as yearly training on the leveling of writing. She has given numerous presentations to parents of each year group on the teaching, learning and supporting of English at home. Charis has recently delivered staff training to Repton's newest school, the Repton New English School in Amman, Jordan. This training was for teachers from Nursery to Year 13, on implementing the National Curriculum of England, as well as teaching outstanding lessons across all subject areas.

Matt Hawes (Maths)

Matt is a Maths specialist and has been teaching the subject for just over 10 years. He has taught in both the state and independent sectors. Matt has also taught in both Senior and Junior Schools and has been a Head of Year and a Senior Boarding Housemaster. Matt is also a keen sportsman and coached Seaford College's 1st XV for 4 years. Matt has predominantly taught GCSE and A Level Maths but is relishing the opportunity to teach at a prep school and looks forward to getting involved with sport and the wider extracurricular life of Brambletye.

Nicola Robinson (Head of Learning Development)

For the past 7 years Nicky has been focused on the area of inclusion, working with children with a wide range of needs and has most recently held the position as Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion, which also included being a member of the Senior Management Team. Prior to focusing on inclusion, Nicky brings with her over 10 years' experience as a Class Teacher in various primary and junior schools. Outside of the classroom Nicky enjoys spending time outdoors and in 2011 completed the London Marathon.

We are very excited to be welcoming such talented individuals to our staff and I know that they are just as enthusiastic about joining the team. I look forward to introducing them to you and your children in the coming weeks.

CENTENARY

We will be celebrating our Centenary Year in 2019 with a huge variety of events to include:

- A Centenary Week (next term) for all the pupils to engage with our wonderful history and to look to building an even brighter future
- A Centenary Ball – plans are afoot to celebrate in style and hopefully you will have saved the date and be ready to dust off your glad rags and party in style
- There will be a special OB day to celebrate the Centenary in the Summer Term and more details will follow
- Finally we hope to begin the second phase of the Centenary Development early in the new year and plans and Timescales will be sent to you all in January.



SPORT

I was absolutely delighted with many of our sporting results this term. The 1st Hockey team in particular had a very impressive season under Mr Denny's watchful eye and deserve a special mention.

Teams throughout the school have developed and we won or drew over 60% of our matches. Highlights include:

- * U8As Football team had an Unbeaten Season! And the U8Bs lost only 1 match
- *U8As Hockey team were also unbeaten, and the Bs again only lost 1 match. This bodes very well for a bright future!

We were also delighted with the success of some of our pupils at the recent trials for the Prep Schools' Pumas teams.



Luca was selected for the Development Squad. This squad will attend a training camp in the Easter holidays and the prestigious Gothia World Youth Cup in Gothenberg, Sweden in July. In addition Jacob, Edward and Sancho were all selected for the 'A' Squad. This squad is for the most talented 16 players in each age group. They will play Academies and other District Representative teams during the Spring Term. A fantastic achievement!

Over 200 children were nominated for the trials – to have four of our boys selected is a tremendous achievement.

Our Riding Team also go from strength to strength – a parent writes:

“There were over 27 different schools competing today. We had our biggest turn out to date for Brambletye and cannot thank you enough for generously paying for their entries.

The 40cm class had 2 teams. Josh, Eliza and Isla came 2nd and Will, Daisy and Tabby came 7th. With Isla 5th, Eliza 6th and Josh 7th individually.

The 50cm team again had 2 teams. Chris, Josh, Isla and Eliza came 2nd and Will, Tabby and Farley came 8th with Josh 2nd, Chris 5th and Isla 8th.

The 60cm team of Lolly, Jett, Chris and Josh won their class with Josh 7th, Lolly 6th and Jett 3rd.

The 70cm team of Lolly, Chris and Jett came 5th and would have won were it not for a sat nav error for one rider. With Lolly coming 3rd (only half a second between the top three individual riders).

The day was a huge success; new riders for the school team expressed their delight at such a fun day and are very keen to do more as soon as possible. So I shall be plugging it I’m afraid! And always very keen to recruit more riders!”





YEAR 3 & 4 PLAY – “Men on the Moon”

We were treated to a wonderful rendition of Men on the Moon by Years 3 & 4. The standard of acting and the quality of singing was tremendous, and much credit must go to Mrs Clark, Mrs Miller and Mrs Andrews for their tireless dedication to the cause. Those of us that were lucky enough to watch the performance witnessed some wonderful dancing and singing from an enthusiastic bunch of budding thespians. Bravo Years 3 & 4!



BONFIRE NIGHT

Over 700 pupils, parents, OBs and friends of Brambletye joined us for this year’s Bonfire Night. The bonfire was a triumph and the weather was certainly on our side for a change. The evening was a great success and the fireworks were as spectacular as always. Many thanks, as always, for supporting this wonderful event.



REMEMBRANCE

At 11 o'clock, on the 9th of November, the whole school gathered around the "turning circle" in an act of remembrance. The two minute silence was observed by all and Constance played the Last Post and the Reveille beautifully. It is sobering to think that twenty six Old Boys of this school were killed in the Second World War – their names were read out in a very moving Remembrance Service held in the school's Chapel on the 4th of November. We were delighted to be joined by so many parents, grandparents and serving members of the Armed Forces. The Pre-Prep children marked the event by making their own poppies and placing them on the turning circle and we welcomed parents to the occasion for the first time.



CHARITY CONCERT

The Charity Concert is one of the highlights of the year and we were treated to a feast of musical talent throughout the Year Groups. One kind parent wrote,

"The quality of this year's concert was absolutely fantastic. It is extraordinary that a small country prep school can stage such an event. The entire production was tremendous and I hope you are as proud of your staff and pupils as I am!"

I continue to be indebted to the hard work and dedication of the Music Department, and in particular to Mr Hughes, Mrs Selleck and Mrs Andrews. The concert raised an impressive £1,400 for the school's charity – Rwanda Aid.





HOUSE SHOUT!

Just before Half Term, we all enjoyed a hotly contested House Music Competition, expertly adjudicated by Mr Richard Stafford, Director of Music at Ardingly College. The standard was extremely high, and all involved were rightly proud of their efforts. In the end, it was Drake who won the House Shout.



Winners of the individual competition were:

Junior – Tiffany (piano)

Middle – Ella (harp)

Senior – Emily (violin)



AUTUMN TERM MUSIC EXAMS

Louisa	ABRSM Piano Grade 2	Merit
Louisa	ABRSM Singing Grade 3	Distinction
Robin	ABRSM Violin Grade 1	Merit
Olivia	ABRSM Singing Grade 1	Merit
Gabriela	ABRSM Singing Grade 4	Pass
Georgina	ABRSM Singing Grade 2	Merit
Edith	ABRSM Singing Grade 1	Merit
Tom	Trinity Drums Grade 1	Merit
Gemma	ABRSM Piano Grade 3	Pass
Hamish	ABRSM Piano Prep Test	Pass
Maya	ABRSM Violin Grade 5	Pass
Lucas	ABRSM Piano Grade 2	Merit
Nikita	ABRSM Singing Grade 1	Merit
Nicole	ABRSM Oboe Grade 1	Distinction
Stephan	ABRSM Clarinet Grade 4	Merit
Honor	ABRSM Singing Grade 1	Distinction
Monty	ABRSM Euphonium Grade 2	Pass
William	ABRSM Singing Grade 4	Merit
Edward	Trinity Drums Grade 1	Merit
Sophia	ABRSM Singing Grade 1	Distinction
Matthew	ABRSM Piano Grade 1	Distinction
Rebecca	ABRSM Flute Grade 3	Merit
Rebecca	ABRSM Singing Grade 3	Distinction

VERSE SPEAKING COMPETITION

“Not many schools these days,” said the Adjudicator, “still do a Verse Speaking Competition, and so I’m delighted that the tradition at Brambletye is still going strong.” In fact, every pupil in Year 5 to 8 learnt a poem in preparation for this competition, and the finalists were eventually selected after a very thorough auditioning process. Mr Andrew Schagen (Head of English at Benenden) was clearly impressed by the performances of all finalists and found it hard to select winners. In the end, the following were chosen:



Year 5: Theo

Year 6: Gemma

Year 7: Will

Year 8: Phoebe – The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy

Phoebe was also presented with the Sladen Cup for Verse Speaking at our End of Term Prizegiving.

Our thanks go to members of the English Department who prepared the children for the competition and to the 'neutral parties' from the Common Room who had the tough job of judging the semi-finals!

CHARITY – Demelza

I was immensely proud of the school's contribution to last year's chosen Charity. Parents, pupils and staff all pulled together and raised a record amount of £54,535 beating our previous record by an astonishing £27,535!



CHARITY – Rwanda Aid

This year's chosen Charity is Rwanda Aid. Rwanda Aid works in the remote south west region of Rwanda, in the districts of Rusizi and Nyamasheke, situated between the Nyungwe Forest and Lake Kivu. Here the people are not only struggling from the aftermath of the genocide in 1994, but they also face desperate poverty. Rwanda Aid aims to support the vulnerable and disadvantaged, especially children, helping them to develop the skills and knowledge to build a better future for themselves, their families and their community. I really hope the school will get behind this wonderful charity and I am delighted that we have already seen a significant amount raised through the school's Dog Show, the Charity Concerts, and the Bonfire Night Treats sale.

ART AND SPORTS TOUR

Holland Tour 2018.

The venue for this year's Art and Sports tour to Holland was Arnhem, a beautiful small town in the North West region of the Netherlands. Vitesse F.C hosted the boys football training at their academy camp set in a stunning location in the Arnhem forest. The girls hockey coaching took place at Upward Hockey Club in Arnhem and was described by Head coach Mr Miller as "The best facilities and coaching I have ever witnessed".

Both football teams and the girls hockey 11-a-side team received four training sessions with their respective academy team of coaches which provided good technical preparation for the two matches they played against quality local opposition. Our girls were always going to be up against the strong Dutch Hockey teams, who basically train every day, but the experience of playing against a stronger opposition will help them develop a stronger mind-set and technical ability to make further progress back at school. The 1st and 2nd XI boys trained hard in preparation for their two matches and the 2nd's played their socks off to earn respect from their opposition teams and coaches. The 1st XI played some excellent football to earn two victories against two very strong Arnhem teams, beating SML 6-1 and AHC 4-3, all played in the Vitesse floodlit stadium with home fans watching including our away fans Mr and Mrs Moreau and Mrs Cox. Thank you for their support.

In addition to the outstanding Sport, we had excursions to Efteling Theme Park, the biggest in the Netherlands which provided our group with a recreational day of bonding and sheer fun and relaxation before training started the following day. Our evening of bowling is always a popular event and this year's champion bowler was William.

After dinner each evening we held prize giving awards and the following pupils received recognition for their personal achievements on the tour.

Helpfulness – Utieyin (Swept up after dinner every night and cleaned the Vitesse changing rooms after each match)

Most unselfish act of play – William (Who passed the ball when he could have scored himself)
Champion bowler William

Efteling Park Rides Champions Sophia, Olivia, Gabi (For going on the most rides, 16! 2nd place Mr H on 15.)

Tackle of the tour award Colombe (A signature cruncher on the opposition left winger)

Golden Boot award Edward (For scoring 7 goals in two matches)

MVP (Most Valuable Player) Jake

MOM Awards Jake, Max, Jett, Joshua

LOM Olivia, Ploy

Most Technical Hockey Player Award Beatrice

Most Improved Emily

Trainers of the Day – Luca, Max, Clinton, Gabi, Emilia, Rebecca

Highlights of the tour as described by the children:

“I came for the training and football matches and it was brilliant”

“The Eftelling Park rides were scary and awesome”

“I loved the bowling evening”

“The Hockey coaching was off this planet”

“I enjoyed the food sir”

“I loved watching the Under Vitesse Under 23’s team train”

“I felt proud to receive my MOM trophy in front of everyone”

“I enjoyed receiving my participation certificate from the Vitesse coaches”

“The moment I received my 1st XI Captains award I knew I would cry” **Louis 1st team Captain.**

“I enjoyed watching our students make progress in Sport, Art, Socially and Morally” H.

My congratulations go to all participants and to the staff for their hard work and dedication which ensured the success of this tour. Mr Miller, H20, Mr Franklin and Mrs Clark.

TRIPS

The children have enjoyed a huge variety of trips and excursions. One of the highlights – certainly for Mr Purcell was the Grape Harvest at Squerryes. Our thanks to the Warde family for introducing some of our pupils to the skills required to make delicious sparkling wine!!



LIFE AT BRAMBLETYE

Barking Mad Dog Show



Year 8 Ball

The final week of term was packed with events starting with the Years 8 Boarders' ball. The children attended dance classes throughout the term to master the Waltz, Cha-Cha-Cha and Jive and enjoyed skilfully spinning each other around Walnut under the guidance of Mr and Mrs Purcell – a huge thank you to them both.



BOARDING

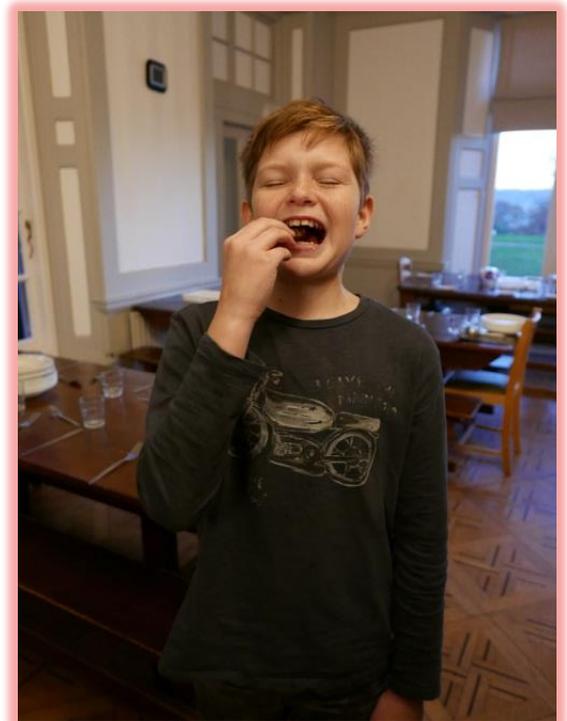
It's been another busy and rewarding term for Brambletye boarders. Weekends have been fun and busy with lots of outings and in-house activities. There has been plenty of climbing action with the Big Tree Climbing Company and a trip to Clip 'n' Climb as well as Go Karting, Paintballing and Trampolining. You could ask the children to demonstrate their sushi-making and baking skills to you over the holidays! The boarders also braved a Bushtucker Trial – a first and possibly a last at Brambletye!!





Bushtucker Trials

Delicious looking cakes packed with grasshoppers, worms and other creepy crawlies for the bravest boarders!



Parent Events

Teen Tips Parenting workshop

We welcomed Alicia Drummond back to Brambletye to run a Setting up for Success workshop. Alicia is a therapist who works with teenage children. Her workshops help parents to understand how their children entering the teenage years think and why. In her workshops she shares her ideas for proactively creating an environment for teenagers to promote positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience so they can achieve great things. Alicia stresses how important it is that both mums and dads work to understand what is happening in the teenage brain and since the last workshop was attended by Mums we have decided to dedicate the next workshop to Dads! <https://www.teentips.co.uk>

Year 6 & 7 Parent Dinner

We once again very much enjoyed entertaining parents of children in Years 6 & 7 to dinner. Annabelle's team excelled themselves and spoilt us rotten! Next term we look forward to hosting parents who are new to Brambletye and there is an open invitation to all parents to join in Burns Night celebrations.



REVIEWS

Below is a selection of recent reviews of Brambletye. I hope you enjoy reading them.

<https://www.tatler.com/school/brambletye-tatler-school-guide>

<https://sussex.muddystilettos.co.uk/national-school-reviews/brambletye-east-grinstead/>

https://www.goodschoolsguide.co.uk/schools/160088/brambletye-school/2BE9A39#sch_tabs-2

SPRING TERM 2019 CALENDAR

The Spring Term Calendar will be posted on the school website under 'Term Dates' in early January and on the portal. A hard copy will be available to collect on the first day of term. Parents may wish to note the following key dates for the diary:

Beginning of Spring Term 2019

- Boarders should arrive back by 5.30pm on Sunday 6th January.
- Day pupils should arrive by 8.10 am on Monday 7th January
- Pre-Prep pupils between 8.15-8.45am on Monday 7th January

Parent-Teacher Meetings

- Morning of Saturday 9th February – Year 3
- 5.30pm-9.30pm Wednesday 13th February – Year 8
- 4.00pm Wednesday 27th February – Year 4
- Wednesday 6th March – Learning Development
- 5.30pm-9.30pm Wednesday 13th March – Year 6
- 3.30pm-8.10pm Thursday 7th March – Rec, Year 1, Year 2



Visiting Preachers

- Saturday 2nd February, Junior Chapel Service (Years 4, 5, 6), Preacher: Andrew Turner, Second Master, Charterhouse
- Saturday 2nd March, Junior Chapel Service (Years 4, 5, 6), Preacher: Stuart McPherson, Headmaster, Worth School
- Saturday 16th March, Senior Chapel Service (Years 7 & 8). Preacher: Mr Anthony Lamb, Deputy Head Co-Curricular, Eastbourne College
- Saturday 23rd March, Junior Chapel Service (Years 4, 5, 6). Preacher: Rev'd Angela Martin, Vicar, Forest Row and Ashurst Wood

Dinner for New Parents: Thursday 17th January

Home Clothes Day: Friday 25th January

Charity Burns Night: Friday 25th January

Book Character Day: Friday 15th February

Year 5 Charity Bake Sale: Friday 8th March

Headmaster's XI vs The Fathers XI (Football)

and Mrs. Brooks' Team vs The Mothers

(Netball): Sunday 24th March

Musical: The Beauty and the Beast,
7.00pm Wednesday 20th & Friday 22nd March,

6.30pm Saturday 23rd March

Year 5 Play: Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies, 1.30pm Friday 25th January



Talks next term:

Thursday 24th January 5.00pm, Ridgeway Adventure Talk for parents of Year 8 Leavers

Friday 1st February 5.30pm, Talk: 'Transition to Senior School' by Rob Hill, Olympic Hockey Player and Housemaster, Eastbourne College

Friday 1st February 6.30pm, Talk: 'Opportunity and Achievement' by Rob Hill, Olympic Hockey Player and Housemaster, Eastbourne College

Thursday 28th February 3.30pm Talk: 'Positive Solutions around the World' by Nicola Peel, award winning environmentalist, film maker, speaker and solutionist.

Parenting Workshop for Dads: Teenage Mental Health
Wednesday 27th February

Date for Summer Diary
Friday 4th May – The Centenary Ball



Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and here's to a tremendously happy, healthy and productive 2019!

That's all, for now.

Handwritten signature of Nick Brown.

For all the latest news and views please like us on Facebook and follow us on twitter.



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