

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



Est. 1919

**BRAMBLETYE**

Dear Parents,

15th December 2017

### HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER

I very much hope that you and your family are enjoying the first few days of the holidays and that your Christmas preparations are going well.

Christmas comes early when you work in a prep school and we have certainly celebrated the upcoming event in style! This has been a very happy and productive

term – we started the term bathed in late summer sunshine and ended it on a crisp and frosty afternoon at St. Swithun's church. We welcomed 52 new pupils to our ranks in September and I am thrilled with how quickly they have become part of the Brambletye family. The children and staff have achieved a great deal, both in and out of the classroom and below is a snapshot of all that is worth celebrating this term.



### SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

I am delighted to announce that one of our pupils has already been awarded a Scholarship to her Senior School. Elizabeth has won an Art and a Drama Scholarship to Heathfield. It will take a Herculean effort to match the 25 Scholarships won last year but it is certainly a very promising start! Well done Elizabeth!

## CHRISTMAS at BRAMBLETYE

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Brambletye celebrated Christmas magnificently, with events such as the Christmas Feast and Raffle, Carols around the Christmas tree, the Pre-Prep Christmas Play, Boarders' Disco, Santa's grotto, Dormitory decorations, and the special Advent Services in our Chapel. The finale to our celebrations, and one of the major highlights of the term, was the **Brambletye Carol Service** at a packed St Swithun's Church. Phoebe opened the service with an outstanding solo of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', and the singing throughout the service was quite simply brilliant. I particularly enjoyed seeing parents, staff and children sing in the combined choir and thank all those involved for their time and support. I thought the readers performed beautifully – it is quite a feat to read to over 600 people at such a young age and they all did a fantastic job. The collection raised over £970 for our School Charity, Demelza. Thank you to Mrs. Andrews and her team for producing an excellent Service and particular thanks to Reverend Andrew Hawken for leading the service and allowing us to use the church.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

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Lydia's mathematical talents were tested in the Senior UK Maths challenge and she was awarded a Silver medal, narrowly missing qualifying for the European challenge (by 1 point) and a gold award (by 2 points)

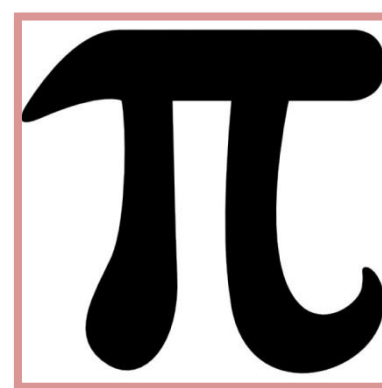
Nevertheless, an absolutely amazing achievement in a challenge designed for top Year 10/11 GCSE and A level Maths.



Congratulations also go to Uliana who took a GCSE in Russian over the summer holidays and passed with an astonishing A\*!!

Theo entertained the school by reciting the number Pi to 50 decimal places. He informed me that this did not impact on his revision for the upcoming scholarship examinations later in the year!! If anyone else fancies taking on this rather strange challenge then here is Pi to 50 decimal places. Good luck!

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Junior academic colours were awarded to Finlay; Senior academic colours were re-awarded to Robert and Theo.

## PRIZE GIVING

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On the last day of term we enjoyed Prize Giving, and it certainly reinforced the strength of the Brambletye 'House' system. There was great anticipation and excitement as the results of the various House events (Football, Netball, Squash, Music etc) were read out, culminating with:

House Sports & Music Cup  
Marlborough

House Duty Cup  
Drake

House Good Conduct Cup  
Drake

House 'Golds' Cup  
Drake

House 'Pinks' Cup  
Drake

House Stars and Minuses Cup  
Drake

House Shield  
Drake



Individual **Star Prizes** were awarded to:

**Golds:** Flora, Orlaith, Sophie, Ella, Edward, Phoebe, Mimi, Bea, Elliott, Stephan, Matthew, Eleanor, Theo, Christopher, Hattie

**Pinks:** Orlaith, Robin, Ella, Jemma, Gabriela, Charlie, Utieyin, Efosa

**Send-Up Prizes:** Gemma, Jemma, Georgina, Fiona



### Appointments and Promotions:

House Officer:	Christopher - Marlborough
Prefect:	Lexi
Captain of Netball:	Alice
Captain of Rugby:	Will
Captains of Cross Country:	Charlotte
Captain of Squash:	Hattie

### CENTENARY

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We have now raised over £1M in donations: a significant milestone in our campaign. This, combined with the £500K donated by the school, means that our grand total now stands at over £1.5M. We are hugely grateful to all those who have supported the campaign.

We anticipate holding our first match on the Centenary Pitch in late January and we look forward to inviting you all to the official opening ceremony on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

In the meantime, we have taken on board the very helpful feedback from parents regarding our planned art studio and library / resource-centre development and we hope to announce revised plans early in the New Year, together with the launch of our next phase of fundraising.



## SPORT

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There were a huge number of sporting highlights and “firsts” at Brambletye this term. We were delighted to be able to host our first ever triathlon and we were also delighted that Orlaith became the first girl to represent Brambletye on the Rugby pitch!

The Swimming Squad enjoyed some impressive results

the highlight must be beating Windlesham – a school close to twice our size!

Both the Colts A and B football sides enjoyed thoroughly successful seasons

and this bodes well for the future and the Girls enjoyed a very successful term on the hockey pitch and the netball courts winning over 60% of all their fixtures! Mr. Lush’s U11’s enjoyed some fantastic results, the highlights were: Beating Bede’s (a much bigger school than us): 4 – 0  
Beating Dulwich Prep (also a much bigger school than us) in a tournament: 1 - 0  
Beating Ashdown House on a large astro turf pitch: 7 – 1

Football Colours were awarded to Robert, Billy, Felix and Alex, and Hockey Colours were awarded to Alice and Isabella.





## YEAR 3 & 4 PLAY – “JONAH” – A Fishy Tale

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We were treated to a wonderful rendition of Jonah – a Fishy Tale by Years 3 & 4. The standard of acting and the quality of singing was tremendous, and much credit must go to Mr Brundish, Mrs Clark, Mrs Lloyd-Smith and Mrs Andrews for their tireless dedication to the cause. Those of us that were lucky enough to watch the performance witnessed some extraordinary air guitar action, a talking crab and some wonderful dancing and singing from an enthusiastic bunch of budding thespians. Bravo Years 3 & 4!



## BONFIRE NIGHT

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Over 600 pupils, parents, OBs and friends of Brambletye joined us for this year's Bonfire Night. The bonfire was a triumph and the weather was on our side for a change. The evening was a great success and the fireworks were as spectacular as always. Many thanks for supporting this wonderful event.



## REMEMBRANCE

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At 11 o'clock, on the 11th of November, the whole school gathered around the "turning circle" in an act of remembrance. The two minute silence was observed by all and Georgia and Robert 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 5<sup>th</sup> of November and we were delighted to



be joined by so many parents, grandparents and serving members of the Armed Forces. We are very grateful to Wing Commander Davy who agreed to represent the Armed Forces and both he and Farley read the poem "Armistice"

written by Farley's Great, Great Uncle and Old Brambletyean David Raikes who was lost in action during the last days of World War II. The school raised £336.07 for this year's Poppy Appeal.



## CHARITY CONCERT

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Brambletye certainly knows how to put on a show and this term's Charity Concert was a cracker! Putting on a concert, at any time of the year, is a challenge, but putting it on relatively early in the academic year, in the week of school exams, with over 160 pupils performing, made it all the more demanding and I am indebted to the hard work and dedication of the Music Department, and in particular to Mr. Hughes, Mrs. Selleck and Mrs. Andrews. All who were lucky enough to attend will bear witness to a truly triumphant occasion! The concert raised a staggering £1,586 for the school's chosen charity. Very well done to all involved!



## HOUSE SHOUT!

We all thoroughly enjoyed the hotly contested House Shout this year and we were delighted to welcome Mr Bersey, the Director of Music at The King's School, Canterbury to adjudicate the competition.

12 soloists performed bravely for their Houses and hugely impressed Mr Bersey. The House Shout followed with toe-tapping versions of Fame, YMCA, Story of My Life and Forget You.

Marlborough were eventually crowned the winners of this year's House Shout and went on to give another fantastic rendition of "Story of my Life" at the Charity Concert.

Well done to all involved!

**Winners of the individual competition were:**

Junior – Amelia

Middle – Rebecca

Senior – Uliana



**VERSE SPEAKING COMPETITION**

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The annual Verse Speaking Competition was held on Friday 17th November and our adjudicator this year was Mr Anthony Lyons, Head of Creative Writing at The King's School, Canterbury. All pupils in Years 5 to 8 were required to learn a poem and choices ranged from Shakespeare to Hilaire Belloc and James Reeves to Simon Armitage. Mr Lyons commented on the very high standard of recitation demonstrated by the finalists.

Winners in each year group were:

Year 5: Fiona - Do As You Are Told by Paul Cookson

Year 6: Talia - Memories of a Holocaust Survivor by Alexander Himel

Year 7: Lolly - The Pig by Roald Dahl

Year 8: Alice - The Lion and Albert by Marriott Edgar



Alice was also presented with the Sladen Cup 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 – Flames of Hope**

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We were delighted to be able to hand over a record breaking cheque for £27,000 to The Flames of Hope Charity. We are hugely grateful to all the children and parents who contributed to this impressive total and we look forward to breaking our record this year!



## **CHARITY - Demelza**

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Our chosen Charity this year is Demelza – Hospice Care for Children. This charity has been championed by Mr Walker and is an incredibly worthwhile charity for us to support. Demelza helps those who may not live a long life, to live and full life and provides the best care and support for seriously ill babies and children across East Sussex and Kent.

Thank you to all who have already donated to our chosen charity this year and particular thanks to the parents of the Pre-Prep who raised an impressive £405 at the Parents' Christmas Party.



#### **ART AND SPORTS TOUR TO EINDHOVEN, HOLLAND 2017**

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Our destination for the third year running was Holland and Eindhoven proved to be the ideal venue for us in terms of first class sporting facilities, competitive fixtures, socialisation and art galleries, and it was Design week at The Van Abbe Museum. Our hotel, The Holiday Inn, was four stars and the accommodation was excellent. This was our fifth overseas tour and they appear to get better each year.



Both the boys and girls attended four training sessions, the boys at PSV Academy and the girls at Orange Rood H.C. The coaches were highly professional and our students made significant progress from day one to the final training session on day five. The coaches' principle is to train youngsters to develop self-discipline both on and off the pitch and our boys and girls were challenged to prepare themselves as professionals in their chosen careers as they enter the adult world. Will, the PSV football coach referred to people who do not listen, or bounce balls whilst the coaches are trying to coach, as amateurs in life. The response of our students to this comment was positive and, although they all started as amateurs, they completed the course as professionals and received record of achievement certificates from the PSV head coach.

### Football results:

Brambletye 1<sup>st</sup> XI  
1 v 0 Braakhuizen

Brambletye 2<sup>nd</sup> XI  
3 v 3 Braakhuizen

Brambletye 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>'s  
combined  
9 v 1 VV Nijnsel F.C.

### Hockey results:

Brambletye v Orange Rood  
mixture of teams.  
Played 4 won 1, lost 3.



### Magic moments in the eyes of our students:

Training with  
professional coaches

Playing competitive  
matches against local  
opposition

Watching  
professional hockey  
and football matches

Visiting the  
Eindhoven Art gallery

Ten pin bowling with  
my friends

Prize giving after  
dinner

The four star hotel and swimming pool

The progress I made in football

Scoring a goal in Europe.

Huge respect and a special thank you to the following members of staff for their dedication in making such a tour the force it is: Mr Miller, Mr Holden junior, Mr Franklin and Mrs Clark, without teachers of your calibre these trips would not exist.





## BOARDING

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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 final week of term was packed with events starting with the Years 7 & 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, who are themselves talented Ballroom dancers.





The Ball was followed by the Rainbow-themed Borders' disco



And then, one of our favourite nights of the year, the very special Borders' Carols around the Christmas tree.



## DORMS GOT TALENT 2017

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Many more hidden talents were revealed in the boarders' attempts to impress this year's DGT judges. The Cheerleaders just beat the boys' artfully constructed rap routine! Many thanks to Buzz Lightyear, his mystery judges and the boarding staff for a great evening's entertainment!



## SPRING TERM 2018 CALENDAR

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The Spring Term Calendar is shortly to be posted on the school website under 'Term Dates' 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 2016

- Boarders should arrive back by 5.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- Day pupils should arrive by 8.15am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Pre-Prep pupils between 8.15-8.45am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

### Parent-Teacher Meetings

Year 6 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm

Year 7 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 6.00pm and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm (parents will be told which meeting is relevant to them early in the Spring Term)

### Art Exhibition: 'Contrasting Outcomes'

There will be a private viewing of all students' work on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January from 6pm-8pm. Drinks and canapés will be served. The exhibition will be held in the Pre-Prep Hall and will be open for viewing to parents, staff and friends from 8am-10am and 4pm-6pm weekdays, Friday, 19th January until Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February.

### Visiting Preachers

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 8.25am: Senior Chapel Service - Stephen Jones Esq., Warde, St Edward's, Oxford

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 8.25am: Senior Chapel Service – Rev'd Alice Whalley, Curate, St Swithun's Church, East Grinstead

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 8.25am: Senior Chapel Service – Rt Rev'd Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes

**Charity Burns Night:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm

**Pre Prep Parents' Quiz Night:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

**Headmaster's XI vs The Fathers XI (Football) and Mrs. Brooks' Team vs The Mothers (Netball):** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 11.30am

### Year 7 Play – "Wind in the Willows"

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm



**Talks next term:**

**Internet Safety Talk for Prep School Parents “Supporting Young People Online” by Childnet**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 6.00pm

**“Exploring Mars” by Professor Andrew Coates, Head of Planetary Science, University College London**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm

**Senior Schools Fair**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm



**Date for Summer Diary**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May – The **Pop Up Opera** will stage a Mozart double bill in the Brambletye Theatre.

Tickets go on Sale in 2018: <https://www.popupopera.co.uk/about-us/>



Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and here's to a tremendously happy, healthy and productive 2018!

That's all, for now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Brown".

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