

Alumni et Amicitia Association



**For former pupils and staff of Leehurst Swan, La Retraite,
La Retraite Swan and Leehurst Swan Schools**

November 2022

Dear Alumni

At prize giving, marking the end of the last academic year, we were amazed at our pupils' capacity for rejuvenation following the resumption of full school activity. As the new academic year has got underway, Leehurst Swan pupils have continued to display their talents in classrooms, on sports fields, in competitions and on stage in school and beyond. As we reflect on the beginning of the year which began with COVID measures still dominating our lives and ended in a familiar cycle of summer term celebrations, we can proudly say the year has had many achievements to be proud of.

During the year we said goodbye to Headmaster, Terence Ayres, who moved back to the South East. Terence made a huge contribution to the school and steered us onto a solid course where we have the strong, embedded ethos of 'Find Your Voice'. Mrs Mandy Bateman was appointed headteacher and provides the continuity, support and commitment for the children, staff and parents whilst providing the leadership necessary to grow the school and its excellent reputation in the Salisbury area and beyond. Mrs Bateman joined Leehurst Swan in 2015 from Hampshire Collegiate School (now Embley Park) where she was Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Acting Principal. You will often find Mrs Bateman at the weekend on the Solent following her passion for sailing.

The Year 11 pupils sitting GCSE exams for the first time since 2019, did themselves proud with a 100% pass rate. They left Leehurst Swan education not only with excellent qualifications, but more importantly, the skills and personal qualities that enable them to move onto their 6th form.

This academic year started with a bigger increase in numbers than the last two years, giving us hope that life is getting back to some normality. In this newsletter you will find articles on our successes and more, celebrating the importance of an holistic education where kindness, good manners and firm friendships are shown to all.

I hope that these words resonate with you and that they reflect your own experience of your time at school.

This newsletter provides me with the opportunity to say farewell to all the pupils and colleagues who I have met and worked alongside over the last 16 years. Leehurst Swan holds an extremely special place in my heart, but come February I will be 'passing on the torch' to someone else, as I change careers to free up some time to spend with my granddaughter. I have conducted 1.718 school tours so far; I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful families. I will take away so many happy memories of life at Leehurst Swan, with a tinge of sadness.

We have no doubt that our Alumni have been equally busy across a whole range of projects, so please do keep in touch and let us know your news. We look forward to hearing from you!

Beverley Smith

Note from the Headteacher

It was with a huge amount of pride that I took over the leadership of Leehurst Swan in April. Those who know me will be aware that the school is very dear to me. After such a turbulent few years it is so important to bring stability and continuity to our community. I thank Terence for leaving the school with such a fine reputation and growing numbers. We really are going from strength to strength. It is my belief that Leehurst Swan has a very special place in the Salisbury community. It is a school with heart and our mantra of 'Find Your Voice' really is at the centre of everything we do. Our unique 'Find Your Voice' GCSE curriculum has proven very popular with current and prospective pupils and their parents and gives young people the flexibility to excel in subject areas they enjoy.

Once again, our Year 11 cohort left Leehurst at the end of August with an amazing set of GCSE results. All were able to enter their preferred Post-16 setting and have the foundations to go on and flourish on their chosen pathways.

A new initiative this year has been 'Futures Fridays'. The programme is being developed by Head of Maths, Trevor Willan and is possible because our current Year 11 pupils took their IGCSE Maths at the end of Year 10. Year 11 spend Friday afternoons focusing on life skills, interview techniques, careers, car maintenance, talks from local employers and educational establishments etc. If any alumni would be willing to offer their expertise on a Friday afternoon, we would be most interested to hear from you.

We have said goodbye to some valued members of staff during the course of the year. Most notably, Mrs Susie Ware who retired in July. Susie dedicated herself to the service of the children in the school and we miss her greatly.

One of my main aims is to bring music back into our school and I was delighted to appoint Mr Gareth Harris as Head of Music from September. Gareth was Musical Director at Dauntsey's School and very much shares my plans and ambition for music here at Leehurst. We now sing collectively in assembly on a Monday morning, Prep and Senior choirs have been re-established and children are being encouraged to learn a musical instrument.

2022 has certainly felt more normal. We have been able to reintroduce whole school assemblies and many of our traditional events have been able to take place. One thing that was really impacted by Covid-19 was our ability to take school trips. The Battlefields Trip had been postponed twice but a large group of pupils from Years 9-11 were able to travel to Belgium and France to visit the First World War Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme in July. Another visit that had been cancelled previously was the geography and STEM trip to Iceland. Children from



Year 6-11 finally departed just before the October half-term and had the most amazing time visiting incredible waterfalls, volcanos, glaciers, going swimming in a geothermal spa and lava tubing. The photographs are simply amazing. Year 5 spent the night on a Viking long-ship in the Spring, Year 6 had a fun-filled activity week at the Portland Activity Centre in June and Year 7 went on a team-building trip to PGL at Osmington Bay in September. My thanks goes out to all the staff who give up their time to accompany the children on these wonderful experiences.

Another highlight of the last year was being able to host two prize-giving ceremonies. Our guest-speaker for the Prep event was Ms Victoria Hance, our Chair of Governors with Mr Jim Proudfoot entertaining us with his stories of the highs and lows of football journalism in the evening. Both speeches were excellent, and I thank both Victoria and Jim for giving up their time to be with us.

Also at the end of the Summer Term we held a belated party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On a very hot July afternoon the children had a street party under the beech tree. They dressed in red, white and blue and ate mountains of sandwiches, crisps, cakes and numerous other goodies. Of course, in September we had to explain to the children that the Queen had died. The whole school came together in the Walker Hall to commemorate and remember Her Majesty and many then spent the rest of the day quietly doing activities to help them reflect on the enormity of the queen's passing.

We are now looking forward to a full programme of Christmas events. Our Wassail tradition continues but last year the audience was sat on the tiered seating with the doors and windows of the Walker Hall wide open. This year we are planning to revert to the more usual format of round tables, cheese and wine and the 12 Days of Christmas! As always it will be great fun. The Prep school are currently rehearsing for their production of 'Silent Night' which will be performed in front of their families on 9th December. They will also be heading down to the pantomime at the Playhouse and our youngest pupils will be visiting Santa in his grotto in the Market Square. The highlight of the academic year is always the Carol Service in Salisbury Cathedral, and I hope to see many of you there on 15th December. Please do come and say hello after the service.

Mandy Bateman

Class of 2021-2022



ARCHIVE IMAGES If you have any information regarding the photos, or any you would like to share, please email: registrar@leehurstswan.org.uk



Christmas tableau 1950s



Rounders 1960s



School trip London late 80s



Midsummer Night's Dream 2014

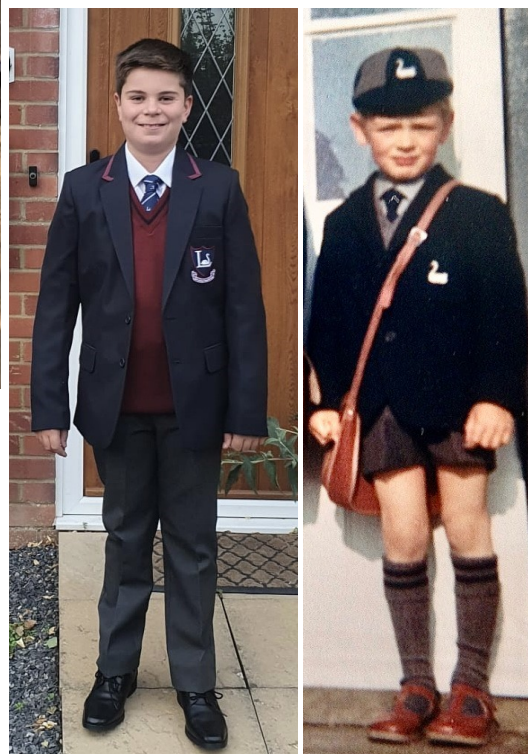


Playtime 2006



It was an absolute pleasure to welcome back alumnus Sam Proudfoot from class of 2018.

Sam came to talk to our upper seniors about his career as a media producer for Premier League Productions. Sam is currently out in Qatar covering the World Cup.



George (who started in Year 7 in September) has followed in his grandfather's footsteps. He had previously been a Swan boy!

The pictures show both George on his first day and his Grandfather (1967) on his first day age 4.

Oxford University Beckons

Congratulations to alumnus Henry (2006-2015) who is now studying Archaeology and Anthropology at Keble College, University of Oxford. Henry loved his time at Leehurst Swan and we wish him every success!





Our News

Congratulations to Kitty, Year 10, on being selected as the winner for the Rotary Young Photographer Competition!

The judge had the following comments:

'They are all well composed and exposed. The greens of the moss and lichens compliment the brown tones of the mushrooms, and the differential focus makes sure the viewer is looking at the subject only. A great set of pictures that do the photographer credit.'



Leehurst Swan gets New Uniform

All David Luke school blazers and jackets are part of their Eco-Uniform range made using eco-fabric from 100% recycled plastic bottles. This is a hard wearing and high-quality sustainable fabric.

Lining & outer fabric is 100% Recycled Polyester Twill.

David Luke trousers are also part of the Eco-uniform range made using eco-fabric from 30% recycled plastic bottles.

The tartan is from the Balmoral range, and called Stewart Navy.



Year 9 Independent Research Projects

Year 9 pupils worked on areas of their own interest and were inspired, and enthused by new methods of study and developed skills that will be increasingly helpful throughout their education.

Projects included hosting a collaborative web-based animation, sustainable materials for fashion, should women in sport be paid equally to men?, random words podcast, a film showreel, painting, music composition and book design.

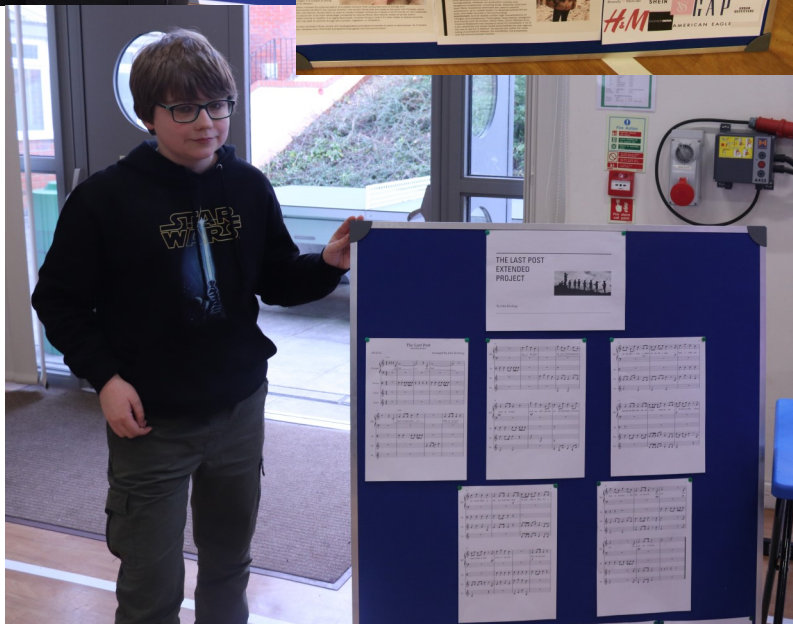
Pupils were judged for the depth of their research, their initiative, creativity, time management and presentation skills.



"We were also so impressed with the standard, the enthusiasm and the passions displayed by all the Year 9 students."



"It was really thrilling, and you must have been so proud of them all!!"



Year 6 enjoyed a super day at Windsor Castle. The Changing of the Guard appeared to be one of the highlights of the day along with the weapons displayed in the State apartments.

Senior pupils had a wonderful time away on the Battlefields trip. They visited the front line at the battle of the Somme.



Year 4 visit the New Forest wildlife Park to see the wolves up close.



Everyone enjoys a day out at Paultons Park



Years 9-11 had a wonderful day in the Welsh mountains gorge walking.



KS1 pupils had a playground makeover. They now have a pirate ship, new trees and plants and various other stimulating structures to play with and develop their outside learning opportunities.



Senior pupils enjoyed an equestrian riding day at Grovely Riding Stables



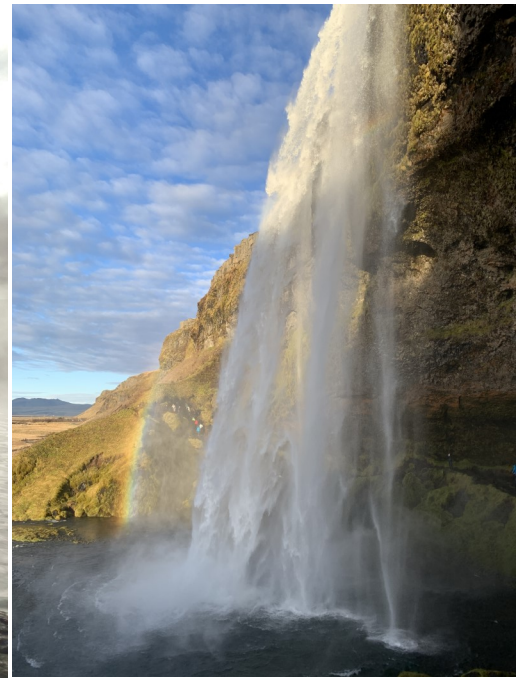
Year 6 had a super time abseiling, sea kayacking, beach bushcraft, Chesil beach walks and team building exercises in Portland.

Iceland Trip

Year 6-11 had an amazing trip visiting Iceland. They witnessed the inner workings of a volcanic eruption and had the opportunity to enjoy the geothermal waters of the secret lagoon, .

They also visited the Great Geysir. They saw one of the most active geysers in the area, Strokkur, spouting up to 25 metres every 5-7 minutes.

They also stopped at Thingvellir National Park. This beautiful canyon running through the park forms the meeting point of two of the earth's tectonic plates and a unique opportunity to witness the mid Atlantic ridge. They saw the North American plate on the left and the Eurasian plate



Bright Futures – new lessons on the timetable.

Our focus is to give students the knowledge, life skills and experience to help them prepare for life after Leehurst Swan to enable them to have a successful career and future.

Year 11 students have weekly 'Futures' lessons which allow for additional exposure to careers, education, information, advice and guidance through an array of topics which include money management, life skills, application preparation, interview skills and exam preparation



With the introduction of this new subject, we are positive that pupils will be more confident to make informed decisions about their educational pathways and future careers. We also want to build pupils' confidence as they leave school, so that they can compete in a competitive interview process and know how to make their desired next steps into adulthood. Whatever this may be. We want our pupils' to not only leave Leehurst Swan with their GCSE qualifications but with the feeling of being ready to 'find their voice' for their next journey.



Alumnus and local estate agent Adam Budd (class of 2007), enjoyed visiting his old school and set the Prep pupils the task of 'Designing a Home' to be featured on Adam's 'FOR SALE' boards. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the competition and Alice's design can now be seen around Salisbury.



**The Headteacher, staff
and pupils invite you
to our Carol Service at
Salisbury Cathedral on
Thursday 15th
December, 9.30am**



Stay Connected, and Send Us Your News and Updates!

Alumni can play a vital part in supporting the school by sharing their inspiring stories, providing careers mentoring or supporting our events

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Our SOCIAL MEDIA pages are a way for you to stay in contact with the school and for us to let you know about any events that are coming up where you can meet your friends from school and learn about what the school is currently doing.



**Wishing you all a happy, healthy and merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.**