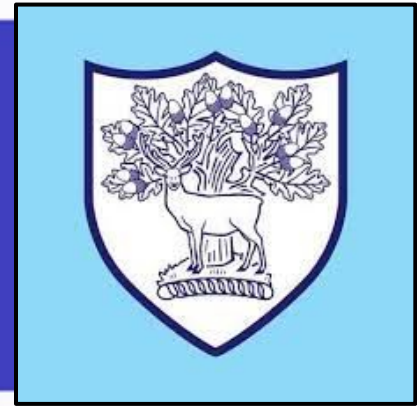


Park Life



4th Edition

They all go hand-in-hand

Making The Grade

Year 11s and 13s put to the test

By Staff Reporter

Students from Years 11 and 13 have been putting their skills to the test over the past few weeks with the beginning of the exams. The assessment period started in earnest on the 29th of April with the GCSE practical exams followed by the art and textiles practicals on Wednesday the 8th of May. Written exams then began on Monday the 13th of May, hailing the start of more than a month's worth of testing. As with last year, Year 11 have been guided towards their GCSEs with the help of period 0 and period 6 sessions in Maths, Science and English as well as targeted revision time in school rather than revision time at home, which is still practised in many schools.

The school also hosted a mock examination results day, complete with a balloon archway, in order to give students a taste of that special day. Mr King says the extra sessions and guidance put students in a strong position for exam success. "The Period 0 and Period 6 sessions have been invaluable in increasing the amount of time our students are exposed to high quality teaching. In addition, the 'boosters' and warm up sessions have been great additions to ensure that students go into exams fully prepared and able to give their very best." Mr Jones, head of Year 11 said that he was extremely proud of the way students had conducted themselves so far. "They have kept their heads when times got tough and stayed firm to help one another."



Assembly

Staying Safe Online

Written by Staff Reporter



Staying safe on the internet has become a focal point in recent weeks after a nationwide call for schools to help battle cases of online extortion.

The National Crime Agency, the UK's equivalent to the FBI, recently sent an email to all schools requesting that students be educated on the dangers. It comes after a sharp increase in the number of teenagers being targeted by online criminals. In March this year, the Internet Watch Foundation revealed that 176 cases of extortion involving compromising pictures had been reported in 2023, an eight fold increase on the previous year.

On Monday 29th of April, PC Tim Emery from the Thames Valley Police's safeguarding unit, presented an informative assembly to Year 7 where he discussed how to stay safe online.

He said that it was important to recognise that some people online were not who they said they were and talked about what to do if a student felt that they needed to report something. PC Emery said that it was vital that parents were aware of the dangers as well.

“Legally most apps and websites require you to be 13 to have your own account. However, I accept that a lot of parents are allowing them to sign up earlier than 13. If this is the case, it needs extra maturity and should be allowed to be monitored by adults with parental responsibility.

“If you feel you don't know enough about the internet and staying safe, check out a few sites like www.getsafeonline.org and make sure you show an interest in the apps and sites your child uses. It can seem daunting but if everyone follows a few simple rules, there is no reason why your child would come to any harm if they are being sensible. The internet can be both educational and fun so let's work together to ensure that online is a positive experience as they grow up.”

The National Crime Agency is particularly concerned with a type of blackmail termed 'sextortion'. This type of crime involves an adult offender - often from an organised crime group based overseas - threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a prepaid gift card. Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A spokesperson for the NCA said: “A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim.”

Anyone who suspects they have been targeted should not pay anything, block the contact, avoid deleting any evidence and report it to a responsible adult or call 999.

Uniform

Swap Shop

Written by Amelie Jaggard



We've all been there: one minute you're pleased with a new pair of trousers and the next they're swinging around your ankles. Growth spurts are a natural part of growing up but, unfortunately, when it comes to buying a new school uniform, it can make things a bit pricey. Happily, the school has come up with a helping hand for oppressed purses by introducing a swap shop.

Until now, uniform had to be purchased from our local school outfitter, SkoolKit. The shop, based in Park Way, was the go to centre and provided a handy website but the only grumble was the price.

A new blazer could cost anything between £29.99 and £37.99 while a kilt will set you back anything from £24.99 to £29.99. A compulsory set of blazer, kilt, sport t-shirt and sports skirt could easily come in at over £100, and that's before you even start thinking about the rest of the uniform.

With the high standard required by the school, including kilts that come down to midway through the knee and trousers that touch the top of your shoes, it was understandable that parents sometimes found keeping up with their growing children a bit of a headache. However, now, thanks to the swap shop, things are about to get more comfortable in more ways than one.

Once a month the school will release a set of clean second hand uniform items onto the My Child At School app (MCAS). These items will be displayed under 'Products for Purchase' and will be online for seven days. If you decide to purchase an item, the clothes will be available for collection a week after the last possible purchase date.

The next swap shop is to go live on Friday 7th until Friday the 14th of June with collection available on the 21st of June.

A Year 9 student said she found the new shop particularly useful. "I've been growing a lot recently and I've had to have a skirt specially made just to make sure it's long enough. Obviously, I don't want to get in trouble for not wearing the right length of skirt, but I also don't want to keep asking my parents to buy new things. I'm really pleased the school has started the swap shop."

History

D-Day lecture

Written by Zachary Cruickshank



The fascinating role of Greenham Common in the D-Day landings was the subject of an assembly by Andy Kempe, a professor emeritus of the University of Reading, when he addressed budding historians from Years 9 and 10 on Friday 10th May.

Professor Kempe, an ambassador of the Greenham Common Control Tower trust - a team dedicated to preserving and educating others about the historical significance of Greenham Common - talked about different types of planes, military units and personnel involved at Greenham Common in the preparation and delivery of the Allied invasion of occupied Europe.

Students were shown archive footage of airmen parachuting into Northern France after which some students took part in a 'live' reenactment in which they got to imagine what it would have been like to fly over Northern Europe to behind enemy lines and jump out of an aircraft.

Students and staff were surprised to learn that General Eisenhower - one of the most influential generals in the US army, who would later go on to be president - delivered his famous "the eyes of the world are upon you" speech at Greenham Common on 5th June 1944, the night before D-Day.

Mr Wicks, Head of History, said that the assembly had been very informative: "Year 9 students have recently been learning about the impact of World War Two upon Britain so it was very beneficial to their understanding of this unit topic to relate Greenham Common's role in D-Day to their overall curriculum focus.

"As part of the GCSE History course students learn about the Causes of World War Two and study aspects of Nazi Germany's occupation of Europe. Therefore, this presentation brought into sharp focus the necessary planning, coordination and delivery of allied forces to begin the end of the occupation."

A Year 10 student who was present said: "The lecture was surprisingly fun. I really enjoyed the demonstration on how the troops jumped out of aeroplanes to get behind the lines on D-Day. Overall, the visit was both entertaining and educational. It would be nice if something similar could happen again."

The Greenham Common Tower will have historical resources and information available for public viewing in the lead up to D-day as well as a flypast from a Lancaster Bomber at 11.44am on 6th June.

Eco news

Eco council assemble!

Written by Rueben Jaggard



After the success of the last school wide litter pick, organiser Mr Gianakakis, English teacher and the school's Environmental Coordinator, is organising another litter pick. This will take place on Saturday, June 15th, from 9 to 10 am. Hopefully, like last time, they'll collect over 12 bags of rubbish from the local area.

That isn't all though. After half term, the school's official eco council, comprising of three students from each year, will assemble. The eco council will not only raise awareness around

the school, but also drive excitement and participate in activities, including the community litter picks, running assemblies, coming up with new initiatives and ideas to lessen the school's environmental impact and, according to Mr Gianakakis, a super-secret upcoming Fun Friday takeover.

For those who are conscious about the environment and want to join the eco council, a form will be sent out to tutors after half term for you to register your interest.

And for those of you who just want to participate in the community litter pick, all you need to bring is a pair of gloves, and a 'keenness for greenness'.

The World Bank states an average person produces 0.74kg of waste a day. Every bag collected during the litter pick diverts this waste from becoming a litter nuisance by ensuring its directed down a suitable waste treatment option such as recycling, energy recovery or reuse for example.



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Buddy

A Round Of Apaws

Written by Freya Clark



We've all seen him there in the morning: with a keen eye, he watches over the line up, ensuring everything is in order, raising moods, always bright eyed and bushy tailed. No, we're not talking about Mr Markey, we're talking about Buddy. Buddy, a 10 month old golden labrador, joined the school back in November and since then he has regularly been seen around the site ensuring that Mr King and other members of staff get enough exercise. However, Buddy isn't just there to make sure that everyone gets in enough steps, he actually has a job as a therapy dog.

A therapy dog is a canine companion especially trained to provide affection, comfort and support to people, often in institutional settings, such as schools so that students can get the most out of their education.

However, even though labradors are naturally affectionate dogs, there is still some training involved. Buddy is currently training with PAWS, an online training scheme, which consists of videos followed by an in person assessment. Aspects covered in the training include advanced dog training skills, trick training and dog law.

Mr King reports that Buddy, who practises his skills during the holidays and weekends due to his busy work schedule, is currently a quarter of the way through his training.

"He is doing very well with many aspects and we know he will do amazingly in the future."

Phoebe in year 8 says that having Buddy around has made the school a more welcoming environment.

"I love seeing Buddy in the morning. He's always so happy to see us, which really makes the difference. I did feel a bit bad for him when they made him wear those bibs advertising the homework though, I'm not convinced Buddy agreed to that."

The training process can take up to two years to complete but Buddy is already fulfilling one of his main roles which is to put a smile on the faces of staff and students alike. Now, that's a good boy!



Cheerful chap: Buddy when he first joined the school in November.

Dream School Pet

Our school pet

By Eleanor Moutrie



Everyone loves a school pet, but with Buddy so busy with his day job we set our minds to wondering what other creature might make a masterful mascot. Obviously, a hamster was the first thing that sprung to mind but, as those rascally rodents are usually the preserve of primary schools, we felt they were a little too pedestrian. Instead, we came up with the following...

A capybara

These rodents are just as cute and cuddly as a hamster, the only difference being that they're MASSIVE! Adults can grow to be up to 1.3 metres in length with teeth around 8cm long. They eat vast amounts of grass, which would make the site team happy as they wouldn't have to mow the field. The only negative is that they cost £1000 each and like to live in groups of 10, which probably puts this furry friendship group slightly out of our budget.

A Hammerhead shark

Most schools have probably had a goldfish or two in their time but I'm pretty sure that no one has ever had a hammerhead. They're endangered, so we'd definitely be doing our part for the future of the world and there have been no recorded fatalities involving hammerheads attacking humans (although we can't vouch for unrecorded ones). The only downside for this pet is that it might not fit in the science department's pond.

A monitor lizard

These cold blooded creatures aren't exactly a school classic however, they are extremely robust and can live for 30 years, which means we wouldn't constantly have to make up new names for new pets. They have a top speed of 28 miles an hour and some species are slightly venomous, which could come in useful for keeping students off of the grass when the field is shut. Unfortunately, monitor lizards don't really like the cold so West Berkshire might not be the ideal location for one but we could ask Mr Jones in DT to rustle up a shelter for it just to make it feel more at home.



Well-being

Keeping It Cool

Written by Adam Markiewicz



You know the situation - staring at the same line, reading it over and over, desperately trying to remember what it says, but for some reason, it's just not sinking in. Stress can do horrible things to our concentration and our minds and, with all the external noise of social media and peers, it can sometimes feel like it's all getting a bit too much. That's why we've come up with this handy guide to keeping exam stress at bay and keeping your mental balance in check.

Step 1: Sleep well - There's nothing worse for your concentration than a lack of sleep. If your eyes are closing under the weight of your heavy lids then how are you going to use them for revision?

Step 2: A healthy balanced diet - chocolate and coffee/tea might give you the quick buzz you feel like you need but exams are a marathon, not a sprint. Have a banana.

Step 3: Stay active - you might not think you've got time to exercise when you're staring down the barrel of an exam, however, an active body leads to an active mind and you'll be all the more efficient for it.

Step 4: Turn off the tech - bright light exposure stimulates areas of the mind that promote alertness so shining a phone in your face just before bedtime isn't going to be conducive to a good night's sleep. Try reading a book or watching a (calming) film before bed. The brain gets tired, just like any muscle, give it a rest.

Step 5: Take time out - sometimes, you just need to put things into perspective. Take a walk in nature, sit in a quiet room or lose yourself in a good book, you'll soon have those stress hormones back in balance.

Miss Dolton, English teacher and a health and wellbeing specialist, says: "While stress in small doses can be a motivator, when we experience stress for a very long time to very high levels the fight or flight response gets triggered in the body. When we are in fight or flight mode it's very difficult to make decisions and to recall things.

The ideal situation for an exam is to have the right amount of stress and motivation but at the same time to be able to relax and remember what we have learned and all of the knowledge you need to apply."

For further information on dealing with exam stress visit

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/feelings-and-experiences/exam-stress/>

Clubs

A little piece of history

By Ada Laing



Down in the history department there is an ongoing history club run by Miss Stanley-Smith. Since September, History club has invited many students to come along and learn about many different periods about history. We spoke to Miss Stanley, Head of History club, and asked her a few questions about history club.

Firstly, When did it start?

History club started back in September when I joined the school. We started with only one regular member and then grew from there, with more and more students turning up with each session.

Why did you decide to start a history club?

I wanted to start a history club to not only to develop skills for future historians but to get to know more about the students at the school.

It's good to learn about the students when you move school. What sort of topics have you already looked at then?

We have looked at a range of different topics so far including... Rationing both at home and in the trenches. For this I brought in a 'no bake chocolate cake' and a 'vinegar cake' both which used accurate ingredients for rationing. The rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany and a look at ancient civilisation where we developed our knowledge on ancient Egypt and China including all the inventions that we still use today. Also, just before the Easter holidays, everyone in history club presented their favourite historical topic. We looked at everything from, 'the history of everything', 'mediaeval imprisonment', to 'the English Civil War'.

I see, regarding the future of history club, what topics do you have planned?

I am really keen to ensure that the history club reflects its members, so we have always decided topics as a class for what to cover, however next on the list to cover is the Cold War.

History club will be returning to its normal Monday lunchtime slot after the half term holiday. It had been temporarily moved to the Friday lunchtime.

Photography

The Bigger Picture

Written by Staff Reporter



A professional photographer paid a visit to the Art Department on 15th of May to help bring the speciality into focus. Sam Mazzota, a freelance photographer and masters student at the University of Kingston, spent the afternoon displaying his extensive portfolio of work and offering advice to students on how to refine their techniques and on how to get into photography as a career.

Jack North, a Year 13 photography student and the artist responsible for many of the photographs of events within the school, said that the visit had been inspiring.

“I found him to be very knowledgeable and keen to share his amazing ideas. We started off reviewing his portfolios, discussing his creative process and how he executes his shoots from planning to editing.

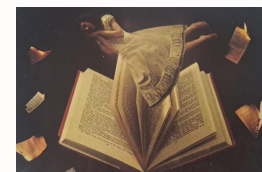
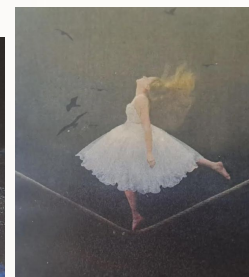
“I personally found it very insightful to learn from him, he gave me some advice on how to better present my work as well as some other tips and tricks.”

During the meeting, Sam shared his creative journey from his beginning in photography to information about his current projects and connections to industry. Sam is currently employed by toy makers Mattel and MGA - the makers of Barbie and Bratz - helping to create the publicity material that publicises the ever popular dolls.

Ms Walters, teacher of art and photography, said that she had been inspired to introduce Sam to Jack after being impressed by Jack’s enthusiasm for the discipline.

“Jack is an exceptional student aspiring to work in Product Photography in the future,” she said. “Sam was really impressed with his passion for photography, his independent thought and maturity beyond his years.

“Sam also worked with Year 10 students, Jacob Jury and Sean Chaffe, focusing on techniques involving shutter speed in a ‘painting with light’ workshop, which also produced some excellent work.”



Seeing the light: photos from Sam Mazzota’s portfolio.

Short story

Spring after war

Written Alexander Cruickshank



Springtime. Cherry blossoms, flowers blooming, young animals frolicking; at least, that's what I could make out from the faded images that adorned the inside of our bunker. According to the elders, they'd come from something called a calendar, a device those from before had used to track the days. It had some numbers on it as well: 2024. That was the year the sky had been burnt, the year the sun had been blotted out.

"What was it like before?" I'd sometimes ask Elder Francis, but his chin would only wrinkle and his brow furrow, the memory too painful for words.

After the bombs fell, most life was wiped out. Forests, jungles, swamps, all filled with the scars of war. Then one nuke was dropped, then another, and another. It was a chain reaction that swept the planet. Few survived, and the ones who did, retreated deep into the Earth. Years have passed.

They had long banned us from going to the surface, saying all I would find up there would be a wasteland filled with savages and murderers. But I knew my science.

A few days ago, I broke into the archives, and found the book on radiation, and learned something shocking. The radiation should have, by now, died down just enough for surface travel.

Then I asked Elder Francis about when we might be able to return to the surface. His response was vague but seemed to be in the range of a few hundred years, though he was sweating a lot. I knew he was lying.

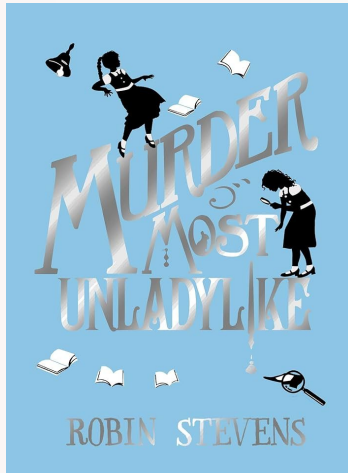
So, in the middle of lights-out, I quietly opened my door, sneakily opened the hatch, silently- well you get the picture. The old ladder creaked as I climbed, and I winced at each little sound. The climb felt eternal, but eventually I reached the hatch. One final creaaak opened the hatch.

I was temporarily blinded by the light but as I looked around, I saw... Green. Not the radiation green but beautiful, spring green.

Book Review

Murder most unladylike

by Addison Head



When 13-year-olds Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up their very own secret detective society, the Wells and Wong detective society, at Deepdean School for Girls, they struggle to find any truly exciting mysteries to investigate. Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym and assumes it was a terrible accident, until the body goes missing. Determined to get to the bottom of the crime, Hazel and Daisy must outwit the killer as they hunt for evidence, spy on their suspects and use all the cunning and intuition they can muster.

Murder Most Unladylike is a 2014 children's mystery novel by British-American author Robin Stevens. It follows two schoolgirls in 1930s England solving their first murder mystery and is the first book in the 'Murder Most Unladylike' series. Originally published on 5 of June 2014, this children's novel is full of mystery, deception and a whole lot of murder.

With their sharp minds and unique skills, Daisy and Hazel employ the art of deduction and investigation to sift through the evidence and identify the killer. However, as they delve deeper into the mystery, they uncover a web of secrets, lies, and unexpected alliances, making them question who they can trust.

Murder Most Unladylike is not only a thrilling whodunit but also a captivating exploration of friendship, trust, and identity. As the girls navigate the treacherous world of British boarding school life, they must not only challenge societal norms and prejudices but also face their own vulnerabilities and insecurities.

If you've got a book you'd like to review, email in a review of 350 or less to hmeyer@parkhouseschool.org

Pictures and puzzles

Sudoku

WARNING! answers
on the next page!

	7	3	8	4	9		2	
		5	3	1	6	4		
		4						
	9		2					
4				6		2		1
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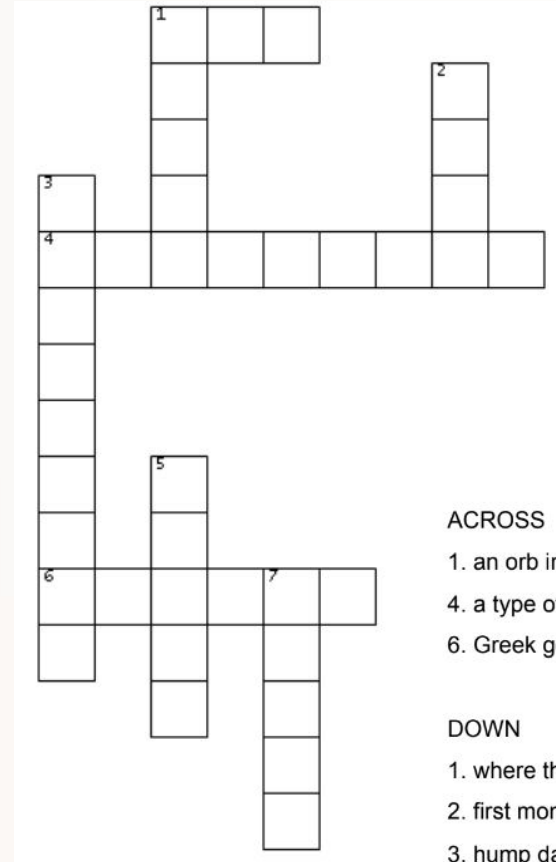
Word Search *Ten words to find. All summer themed.*

S O X C U H M Q Y M I N B H M
 T C Z A C T L I E T S U G U A
 N K T A K H V E L Y S J U X Y
 A Z E H E Q Y P L T F L L L C
 S B C M R D J K O W H U T O Q
 A F V V D J B Z W F P D U F M
 E N I W H X X X W Y V O U W G
 L N H R E Z O M S C L X H O U
 P W O X Y V S A M A B A I H O
 S G H P W I A U U H G V N H J
 B V C Y Q N J K R P C M Z K T
 S X F F L U S E A F E L S U N
 Y U L I N U I H X N I T G T Q
 S G X E R H J G T Z O N M P P
 F X A D V E U A W R Y F G M N

Words:

august
 july
 sea
 yellow
 beach
 june
 sun
 fire
 pleasant
 surfing

Crossword



ACROSS

1. an orb in the sky
4. a type of tree that is always green
6. Greek god of the sun

DOWN

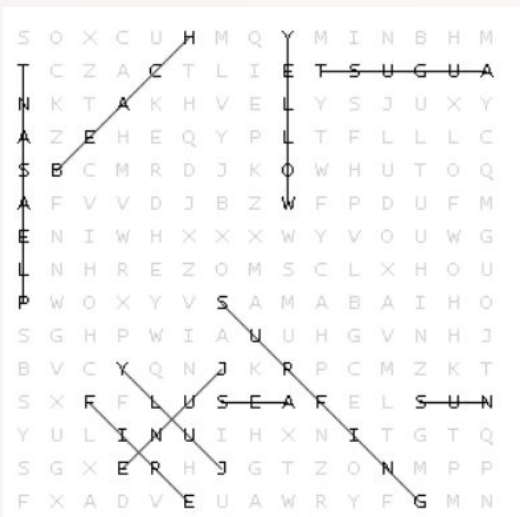
1. where the sun is
2. first month of summer
3. hump day
5. this can block the sun
7. produced by the sun

Pictures and puzzles

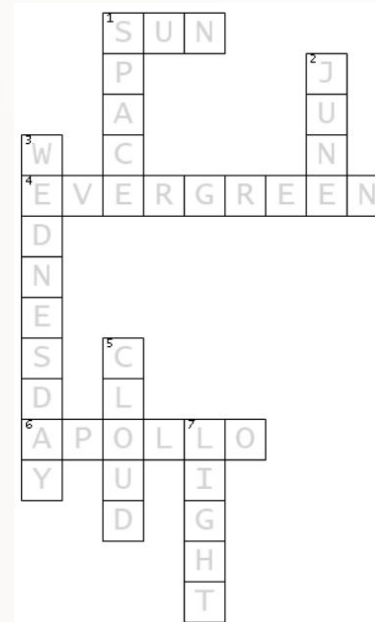
Sudoku answers

1	7	3	8	4	9	5	2	6
8	2	5	3	1	6	4	7	9
9	6	4	5	2	7	3	1	8
5	9	6	2	3	1	8	4	7
4	8	7	9	6	5	2	3	1
3	1	2	7	8	4	9	6	5
6	4	9	1	5	3	7	8	2
7	3	8	6	9	2	1	5	4
2	5	1	4	7	8	6	9	3

Word Search Answers.



Crossword answers.



Credits:

Zach Cruickshank
 Alex Cruickshank
 Rueben Jaggard
 Amelie Jaggard
 Phoebe Gittins
 Ada Liang
 Freya Clarke
 Adam Markiewicz

Eleanor Moutrie
 Addison Head
 Alex Nemerovets