



## Thought for the week!

**“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible”**

## LAMDA Assembly

Year 3 children who are sitting LAMDA exams on Wednesday 9th March, will be rehearsing in a special assembly in the Rendall Room, at 8.30am on Tuesday 8th March.

Parents of participating children are very welcome to attend.

**COPTHORNE**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL 

**WINE***ntwine* 

*Friends of Copthorne Committee invite you to*  
**A light hearted**  
**WINE TASTING QUIZ**

Raising funds for:



## Whose Wine is it Anyway?

**Friday 11th March**  
**From 7.30pm**  
**Rendall Room**

**£20.00 pp**  
**Including wine &**  
**cold buffet**

All proceeds will be donated to the amazing Dame Vera Lynn Childrens' Charity, who help local families with children who have cerebral palsy and other motor learning difficulties. ([www.dvlcc.com](http://www.dvlcc.com)). There are limited numbers for this event so please let us know the names of participants along with payment. (Cheques made payable to "Friends of Copthorne"). Please leave in an envelope in the prep or pre prep office for the attention of Sandra Nathaniel / Victoria Graves by 9<sup>th</sup> March (latest). We will then put people into teams. We look forward to seeing you for this fun evening. Thank you.

## Skiers

43 children from Year 3 upwards and 9 adults are getting excited about the trip that departs on Saturday 19th March. I hope you are all getting organised, with passports, EHIC Cards, pocket money (small denomination euros please) etc.

There are virtual piste maps of Pila on the Interski website, so do take a look.

[www.interski.co.uk](http://www.interski.co.uk)

## More Year 8 Scholarship Success at Worth School

Hermione Ashbee - Sport  
Amber Buggins - Sport  
Daniel Persad - Sport  
Catherine Paterson - Art  
Elliott Meldrum - All Rounder

**This brings our percentage of Year 8 scholars to 60% with news from Hurst still to come.**

# PREP NEWS

Congratulations to Beth who played in the Sussex U10 club netball tournament with CD Phoenix last weekend, and her team won! Well done!



A spring garden by year 5 girls!

Wesley S played for East Grinstead Rugby Club Under 9A team in the Pulborough Rugby Club Festival last weekend and they won the plate so he's very pleased! Well done Wesley!



Ewan recently competed in the British Taekwondo championships, gaining a third place in the red belt category. Don't mess with Ewan!

**Lost Property** Antony N has lost both his blazer and coat which are both named



U11 Netball Squad at the IAPS Tournament at Roedean

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following:

## BRONZE AWARDS

Lacey C

## SILVER AWARDS

Matteo G  
Daniel J

Oliver F  
Mathew V

Lucas E  
Tommo W

Freddie L  
Randeep S  
Mathew B

William S  
Charlotte P

Gabriella G  
Annabelle S-R

## GOLD AWARDS

Dylan R  
Ellie D

Arun B  
Archie M

Scarlett R  
Keira P

Ffion W  
Luke N

Amelie A  
Ella B

Pranav L  
Ruari F

Apologies to Felix J who was awarded his Gold Certificate last week and was missed off the list.

## DIAMOND AWARDS

Rafe C

Ella C

Amreet S

## BOARDING FUN

Once again lots of fun in boarding this week.

A very successful Easter egg hunt. Mr Ansboro managed to hide more than 100 eggs for the teams to find in the dark with their torches!! Good fun. On campfire night the children could be heard across the field singing songs and roasting marshmallows not to mention Mrs Jenkins fabulous hot chocolate. This was followed by a chance to let off steam in the sports hall.

Miss P's pancake night next week is not to be missed.

Lots of pancake flipping will be going on. Hope none end up on the floor like last year!!



# PRE-PREP & NURSERY NEWS

## Our Wonder Wall!

In the Pre-Prep entrance, opposite our new TV screen (full of up to date information for parents), there is now a brand new board on which we will be displaying the children's wonderful work! Please do keep an eye on this as it will be changing regularly, and you may miss your child's special poem, writing or art work. The children are excited about our Wonder Wall and feel proud of themselves having their work displayed so prominently.

**Triathlon:** Lots of exciting news from the Prep School about their Triathlon! To avoid confusion, this is what will be happening this summer:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May Reception & Nursery: Duathlon (Scooters/Bikes & a run) **NEW EVENT!**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May Years 1 & 2 : Triathlon

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May The Copthorne Prep Help for Heroes Triathlon for all children aged 6-14 (children from Pre-Prep may enter if 6 years old). This event will also be open to all children in the surrounding area. **NEW EVENT!**

There will be an entry fee of £5 for the Prep Triathlon, as well as sponsorship forms to raise money for Help for Heroes. The 2 junior events in Pre-Prep & Nursery will not have entry fees, but we do hope to help the Prep school raise money for this worthy cause: more details to follow!



## Good Manners Table

Many congratulations to the children who sat at the Good Manner Table last week:

2 CP	Emily	1HL	Anam	Rec JD	William
2 DP	Samantha	1 DB	Caelan	Rec SJ	Aryan
				Nursery	Stanley



## LAMDA students

Congratulations to Tianna, Marcus, Sammy, Henry, Savan, Caelan, Louis, Jack, Georgia, Anishka and Jumana all of whom performed their poems to everyone in the chapel this week – in preparation for their exam next week. LAMDA helps children with memory development as well as self-confidence and the ability to communicate clearly and present ideas; and, as Mr Jones pointed out, the majority of main parts for the Prep School performance of Lion King next term, are all LAMDA students!

Best of luck to the Pre-Prep LAMDA children on Wednesday!

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the Stars of the Week from last week

2 CP	Savan	Writing a super story about a dragon
2 DP	Dheepya	Research at home about Aboriginal art to help with school work
1 HL	Luke	Working hard with reading and writing his numerals the right way round!
1 DB	Charlie	Great work in Read Write Inc and in class
Rec JD	Ethan	Good work and improvement with reading
Rec SJ	Isobel	Working hard at school and home

## Nursery

The Older Nursery have been very busy preparing for Mother's Day. They have made some beautiful cards and have been practising their songs. We are all very proud of the way the children sang in the Chapel. We hope you all enjoyed the delightful service and your lovely flower!

The Younger Nursery have also been making beautiful Mother's Day cards and have been busy painting their Mummies a lovely little treat!



We have also been reading the story of Stickman. We have made some Stickman masks by using wax crayons and then painting over the top to give them a bark effect and we have been for a lovely walk to collect our own sticks that we then turned into stickmen.

We look forward to seeing all your costumes on Wednesday - Older Nursery theme is Little Red Riding Hood. Younger Nursery's is Day Monkey, Night Monkey.

## Year 1

We have been enjoying lots of stories during book week. Zehra Hicks was our guest author and we all loved her story about Billy, 'The Boy who Hated Toothbrushes'.

We enjoyed discussing the main characters in the book along the theme of loving and hating – the crocodile hated people, the lion who hated meat and the dog who didn't like to wag his tail. We illustrated our own front covers – budding authors and illustrators abound!

Our art this week was painting flowers in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe, large, single blooms in nice bright colours. We will soon have classrooms that look like gardens!



## Reception

What a busy week with World Book day and our Mother's Day service.

In maths we have been busy really trying to write and order our numbers. We have been counting accurately and trying to form our numbers correctly. Well done to all children for trying so hard. We have also been counting backwards from 20 which again is quite tricky.

We have been working in groups building barns and farm buildings to keep the animals safe. This was a lot of fun as the children had to learn to work as part of a team planning and carrying out their ideas!. We used different materials and chose our own colours.

The children also had to put the five little ducks song into the right order looking carefully at each picture, reading the words and counting the ducks!



We had fun singing the songs and imagining what mother duck would have

said to her ducklings! As you can imagine the children enjoyed being the mummy duck and telling their ducklings off! Sequencing is a very important part of Early Reading as the children learn about parts of a story that come at the beginning and at the end. You could continue to work on this when you read to or with your child at home.

The children are really enjoying listening to the Faraway Tree during our story time at the end of the day. We look forward to seeing all the faraway tree costumes next week and we will be exploring biodiversity and recycling on Science day.

Lost Property:

William D-P's red blazer (named in pocket)  
Mays M's black coat (also named)

## Year 2

What busy days in Year 2! We have explored the different areas of Australia, plotted numbers on an unmarked number line and most importantly prepared lovely surprises for Mother's Day.

We really enjoyed our session with Zehra Hick. Sammy's favourite bit was seeing a book that Zehra has not yet finished and he's looking forward to reading it in the summer ... 'Flying Lemurs'. Marcus and Felix most enjoyed writing their stories: Marcus wrote about a crocodile who likes kissing children, while Felix's story was about a robber who robbed the queen, was sent to the dungeon, smashed



the CCTV camera and broke out – then tried to find a job, but wasn't successful so started robbing again! Savan's story was about a little boy who likes sweets and chocolate ... and gobbled up loads all in one go! How wonderful to hear how a visiting author can so inspire the children!

Everyone is very excited about their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory costume for next week.



Ruby and Macie were invited to attend a small school in the Czech Republic for a day, in the village of Sněžné. Apart from experiencing a foreign school, they had the task of explaining what Copthorne Prep school life is like. The school spent the whole day before they arrived learning about schools in England and Ruby & Macie were treated like royalty, deservedly so!

This is Ruby explaining to her class all about her day at the Czech school. She put the power point presentation together herself!

### **Next Week**

- Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nursery & Pre-Prep Dressing Up Day (LAMDA exams – LAMDA children to bring in school uniform into which to change at lunchtime.) If you're unsure about your child's costume, please ask!
- Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Science Workshops for Pre-Prep with 'Crew'  
Parent Event – Elizabeth O'Shea 7.30pm – please see page 7
- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Friends of Copthorne Wine Tasting Evening – please see flyer on front page

## Helping Young Children Manage their Emotions

by Elizabeth O'Shea, The Happy Childhood Expert

**Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm**

Forum for parents with children aged 2-7

Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand feelings and the feelings of others so we can get along with other people. Children with higher emotional intelligence are more likely to be sociable, cooperative, optimistic and able to solve problems. They tend to be better-behaved, less impulsive, and have a higher academic performance. They are happier, have more friends and are more likely to be successful in life.

In this forum, Elizabeth O'Shea will discuss how you can help your children:

- Develop the five skills of emotional intelligence
- Learn how to manage conflicts
- And develop optimism, compassion and self-control

There will also be the opportunity to ask your own questions



Elizabeth is one of the UK's leading parenting experts. She appears regularly on BBC radio –including Radio 4's Woman's hour and BBC World News - and TV including BBC Breakfast and Sky News. And has been featured in The Guardian. She has four children of her own.

Do visit [www.parent4success.com](http://www.parent4success.com) for further information.

We are delighted to be hosting this evening forum and hope you will be able to join us. Please ring 01342-712365 or email [prepreoffice@copthorneprep.co.uk](mailto:prepreoffice@copthorneprep.co.uk) to book your place. Local and school parents all welcome!





## We are now taking bookings for the Spring Holidays

Monday, 21 March - Thursday, 24 March  
Tuesday, 29 March - Friday, 1 April  
Monday, 4 April - Thursday, 7 April

8am - 5pm £30 per child  
8am - 6pm £42 per child

Easter craft, Easter baking and an  
Easter hunt! Its going to be Eggcellent!

booking: [Hi5@copthorneprep.co.uk](mailto:Hi5@copthorneprep.co.uk)



Age range: 2-13 (supervised in two separate groups). Please be aware we will merge groups if we don't have enough bookings.

# MATCH REPORTS

## U8B Tag Rugby v Pennthorpe Won 10-9

A great performance from the U8Bs saw them take a deserved victory against Pennthorpe on Tuesday afternoon with all players playing fantastically, and contributing to the win in some way. The game started with some good running from both teams and some excellent tagging. Scores were traded as neither side could pull away from the other. Elliott and William scored some great individual tries and they were supported by some good tagging from Felix, Arun and Marcos. The offload after the tag was much improved this week and soon the Pennthorpe defence were really struggling to cope with the attacking power of the Copthorne boys. Half time saw Copthorne go in with a one try lead.

The second half was a very exciting one with Matteo and Daniel both scoring some well worked tries but Pennthorpe kept finding a way back into the game every time Copthorne looked to pull away. Elliott again got himself on the score sheet in probably his best performance of the season but with a minute to go, scores were level. Captain William stepped up and scored an excellent try with only a few seconds remaining. The time left wasn't enough for Pennthorpe to score although it was only some excellent last ditch tackling that kept them out.

Well done to all the boys. The 10-9 final score was thoroughly deserved and it was a really pleasing performance from everyone involved.

A repeat performance next week will leave Brambletye with a very difficult game to look forward to. CC

## U8A Tag Rugby v Pennthorpe

A very frustrating afternoon saw the U8A team fall to a defeat against Pennthorpe on Tuesday afternoon. Unforced errors and running sideways with the ball were the main downfalls as Pennthorpe scored lots of well worked tries and tagged well to keep Copthorne at bay. The game didn't start very well with Pennthorpe scoring a number of unanswered tries and it took a while for the team to find their feet. It took a long time for any of the Copthorne boys to score with Ollie trying his hardest but just being forced into touch and Pranav and James just being caught as it looked as if they would score. Finally the boys found a way through the Pennthorpe defence and confidence seemed to grow a little. Pennthorpe extended their lead again before Copthorne came back with some tries of their own through Dylan and Rafe. After a long half team talk where we all tried to pinpoint where we could improve, the boys put in a much better second half performance. Ollie finally got his try but it was the work of Josh and Rafe especially on the defensive side of the game that made it more pleasing. Lewis got on the score sheet as his excellent runs saw him cut through the defence but Pennthorpe's big lead was always going to be a step too far to catch up with.

A final score of 13-5 doesn't show the effort the boys put in, especially in the second half. Hopefully next week's game against Brambletye will see an improved performance and a more positive result. CC

## U9B Rugby v Pennthorpe Won 8-6

Tries: Thomas - 1, Ewan - 1, Ronnie - 3, Christopher - 3  
This week we went up against Pennthorpe in one of the most nail-biting games of the season. Both sides were very strong in attack which made it a very entertaining match. Copthorne opened up the scoring with an early try from Ronnie however the opposition quickly fought back to even the score. It seemed whichever team had the ball in hand were the ones that scored and as the possession was quite even, neither team were able to gain much of a lead. Our defensive line was spread out wide although at times it became bunched up in the centre of the pitch which allowed the opposition to outpace our wingers and score in the corners. After two injuries from Pennthorpe midway through the second half the game was called short. The final score being 8-6, once again, to the boys in red and black. BM

## U9C Rugby v Pennthorpe

The Under C's played their first fixture of the season today and what a thriller it was! There were a total 21 tries scored in the game with 13 going to Pennthorpe and 8 to Copthorne.

The game started ominously with Pennthorpe racing into a 3 try lead; however the C's regrouped to cut the lead by scoring 2 quick fire tries. Pennthorpe kept hold of their lead throughout the game and slowly began to stretch it but this did not dampen the spirits of our boys. They were so happy with having the chance to represent their school that the result was irrelevant.

Making tackles is so important in a game of rugby and this was the area in which we struggled. It took until late into the second half before we began to front up to Pennthorpe and put our tackles in. With more match experience the boys will start to use the width of the pitch more effectively by spreading out in attack and holding a flat line in defence.

It was my first time refereeing an Under 9 fixture and I thoroughly enjoyed watching the boys play as a team. Tries were scored by Hamish (3), Finley (2), Freddie, Luke and Daniel and they were well supported by Alexander, Andrew and Harry.

Well done to all 8 boys; you did yourselves, the school and your parents proud. MA

## U9A Rugby v Pennthorpe Lost 5-7

Try scorers: Luke, Archie, Sam P, Matthew and Sam R  
Today we came up against a very good side in Pennthorpe. They kept their defensive shape a little better than us, tackled well and passed the ball very nicely to find space in attack. We battled hard against them and were never more than 2 or 3 tries behind, but also never really looked like we were going to take the lead. A couple of silly knock ons cost us in the first few minutes and this put us on the back foot. It was also quite wet, and this seemed to take away the enthusiasm from some of our players.

The try scorers were the usual suspects, but special mention to Matthew who got himself possibly his first try of the season. It's in these kind of games that we need boys to put themselves forward to take the game to the opposition! Well played. DJ

### **Windlesham 7s**

Certainly the most powerful tournament we attend and in its fiftieth year. Wet, windy, muddy and cold! A great start with a big win against Brighton College Senior school rather flattered to deceive as we then came up against one of the tournament favourites in Windlesham to whom we lost heavily. The other 2 group games against Holmwood House and Rydon Community were disappointing in that we lost both and certainly should have put up a better performance. This put us in the plate where we met a Great Walstead side intent on revenge after the 15's result and, in an absolute mud bath we lost by four tries. So after a really promising start we fell away which was a pity. Still this is the first of 4 tournaments and I hope that we have learnt from the experience not least to remember our kit!! Thanks to the loyal mums who braved the atrocious conditions to support the team. JC

### **U9 Netball v Ashdown House**

This week the girls U9A team took on a mixed team of U9 and U10s from Ashdown House. The girls were nervous to play against some U10s but were incredibly keen to carry on their winning streak! Amelie was the captain who got us off to the best start by winning the first centre pass. The girls got off to a bit of a shaky start; the ball was intercepted by Ashdown which led to the first goal! As the first quarter continued it was clear that the girls were a little nervous but they were beginning to get back into their usual rhythm of play. After goals were scored by both Keira and Zara the girls looked much happier. The score at the end of the first quarter was now 5-2 to Copthorne but it was close!

During the second and third quarter it was clear that any nerves had vanished and the girls were focused on playing their game. They were man to man marking tightly and driving forward for the ball. Gabbi was really working hard as 'C' making great interceptions and really linking the play together. Amelie and Keira were driving forwards and getting into great spaces while Zara was ready to shoot, linking and passing well with all the attack. The defence were doing an amazing job at limiting the number of balls into the circle. Amreet was solid as 'GK' while Eva, Annabelle and Sophie were making interceptions in all areas of the court. The play was outstanding! The score at the end of the third quarter was now 16-6 to Copthorne!

Despite having a 10 goal lead the girls continued to work their socks off and the whole team really was outstanding. The final score was 21-6! A fantastic result.

A huge thank you to all of the team for their efforts and teamwork. Brilliant!

A big thank you to all the supporters too- a great match to watch! One more match to go girls! HC

### **Under 11 Girls Tag Rugby**

Despite the constant threat of snow and an extreme chill factor the Colts were eager to put their Tag rugby skills to use.

The girls were split into three teams; the dolphins, sharks and starfish.

Although we played a couple of matches against each other we also played several against Great Walstead. Our passing was generally good although some of the girls were still in netball mode, and found it slightly unnatural to pass the ball backwards. However, all in all our teams played well considering the cold. There were several tries scored and by the end of the tournament our teams had improved their game.

There were some players who stood out and impressed the crowd.

Players of the tournament;

Tanishka, Beth, Grace, Jemima, Mallory, Emily, Isabella Well done to all the girls. You all had a go and that is what it is all about.

A very big thank you to Mrs Persad who has been coaching us every Thursday and who also spent the entire afternoon refereeing too.

Thank you to Mrs Toovey, Mr McGuigan, who also refereed, Mrs Cook and all the parents who came to support us. LD

### **1st VII Tag Rugby Festival**

All of the senior girls took part in the tag Rugby festival this afternoon, and it was lovely to see everyone involved and getting into the spirits of things, despite the dismal weather!

The seniors played a round robin competition with one way 8 minute matches, with the teams gaining 5 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss.

The first match was Copthorne B v GW Tigers and this proved to be an exciting first match, however it was GW Tigers who managed to outrun Copthorne and they won the match 5 tries, to 3.

The second match was Copthorne A v GW Cheetahs, which proved to be the deciding match today of the tournament! Both teams were evenly matched and scored try for try. So when the whistle blew the score line was 4-4.

Next Copthorne A found themselves up against Shoreham and they were obviously just getting warmed up in their first match, as they won this match 6 tries to 0! In the next match both of the Copthorne teams were playing and the Copthorne B team showed great signs of improvement and were unlucky to lose to Shoreham 3 tries to 2. The Copthorne A team continued their winning streak winning against GW Lions with 7 tries, with Elise taking the most spectacular try of the tournament in this match, doing the splits!

It was then the Copthorne B teams turn to play GW Lions and again they fought hard but were narrowly beaten 6 tries to 4.

In the final match before both of the Copthorne teams found themselves up against each other, Copthorne A took on GW Tigers and won 4 tries to 0 and Copthorne B began to tire slightly in this last match losing to GW Cheetah by 10 tries to 3, however Vania took the most spectacular fall of the tournament in this match!

To finish off the festival both Copthorne teams played each other and they played this match in high spirits and it was lovely to see them all having fun, and a great way to end the festival! (Copthorne A did win this match though with 7 tries)

When it was time for the presentation the Copthorne A team knew the results would be close, but they didn't

realise just how close they would be! Both GW Cheetahs and Copthorne A were tied on 22 points each, taking it to a try difference! When the tries were counted, GW Cheetahs had 29 tries and Copthorne A had 28, so GW Cheetahs literally pipped Copthorne to the post by one try! So Copthorne A were very worthy runners up! Copthorne B also came in a very worthy sixth place, showing great signs of improvement over the afternoon and were unlucky not to be placed higher today! All in all, it was a super afternoon of Rugby, with the girl's muddy kits representing how much fun they had! A big thank you must be said to all the spectators who braved the weather today, as well as Mrs Persad, Mr Coulson, Mr Van De Merwe and Mr McGuigan for their super coaching and refereeing skills! TC

### **U9A Rugby v Ashdown House Won 11-5**

Scorers: Archie (3), William (2), Sam P (2), Wesley, James, Luke and Nicholas

Today's match was definitely the coldest and windiest played to date, but our boys got stuck in and played well in spite of the conditions. Ashdown played pretty well, but we clearly have more depth in this age group and the majority of our players ended up scoring in what was an action packed game. Sam R and Matthew both deserve a mention as two of our most consistent tacklers today, and the comedy moment of the match was Nicholas losing one of his boots and running half the length of the field in his sock to score! He has already done this once in training, so I may have to call him Cinderella if it becomes a habit. Well done boys! DJ

### **U10 Rugby v Ashdown House Won 9-5**

On a wet, windy and cold afternoon the U10's welcomed Ashdown House in what turned out to be a very interesting game.

Despite the cold conditions the handling from both teams was of a very good standard with hardly any errors made. It has been pleasing to see the progression that the boys have made throughout the season and they are now turning into a nice little outfit. We scored first half tries from Liban, Antony x 2, Cosmic, Ali but conceded 3 ourselves to go into half time 5-3 up. As the wind picked up and the clouds gathered both teams tried to play running rugby which is of great credit to them.

Tries continued to go in at both ends as we scored through Dhruv, Sonny, Louis and to top things off a lovely try by Jake. The game finished in a 9-5 victory to us but both teams can take great credit in the way they played in difficult conditions. We had a total of 8 different try scorers which shows a real team effort. IP

Team: Antony, Jake, Sonny, Luca, Dhruv, Cosmic, Ali, Alex, Louis, Liban

### **U11 Rugby v Ashdown House Won 7-4**

It may not have been a vintage performance from the Under 11's; however, they got the result that they wanted. It was actually a fairly evenly matched game on the whole with both sides looking likely to score whenever they were in possession. The tackle and ruck area were very competitive and at times were a lottery as to who

would come out on top. We were often a little slow in support of our runners so our normal off-loading game stuttered slightly. Ashdown had a couple of whippets playing out wide and they contributed 3 of their 4 tries and always kept the game interesting.

It was during the second half when we started to take control of the game and stretch our lead. Although the game was fairly matched we never looked like losing and ended comfortable winners. This has put us in a superb position to finish with a winning season and it all comes down to next week's game at Brambletye. We now turn our heads to rugby 7's with 3 competitions in 2 weeks! It's a busy but exciting end to the term. MA  
Try scorers: Ben C 4, Charlie, Luca and Austin

### **1st XI v Ashdown House**

After the disappointment of the 7's it was back to the full 15. Missing 2 players again so thanks to Ray and Beau for stepping up at the last minute. We have not beaten Ashdown for several years but the boys were keen to maintain their unbeaten 2016. Once again the weather was interesting as we started in sun and wind after hail! The boys had the best of the early exchanges but without scoring. The pack looked dominant and there was strong running from the new Zac pairing at 10 and 12. However it was Ashdown who took the lead capitalising on a dropped pass and some weak tackling. Playing into a howling gale I felt that if we were on terms at the break we would be in with a great chance of winning the game. After strong runs from the forwards playing pick and go rugby we created space out wide and Zac C went over in the corner so 5 - 5 at the break.

Right from the whistle we were on the front foot with Kieron catching the kick off and making a good 20 metres with great support from Austin Ben E Ray, Zevon and Arjun before the backs moved the ball quickly to Dan T who, at last hit the open spaces and ran in from some distance out pacing the defence. The back row Peter, Ollie and Kieron were tackling everything that moved and Bradley looked sharp at the base. Zevon continues to win ball against the head which once again got us out of a tight spot in the last seconds of the first half. Both Dan P and Beau were running with greater confidence and making their tackles and Luke was, at last, getting up into the line with some effect. Further tries from the 2 Zac's and a conversion put us well in control with game finishing 22 - 5 and the record intact. Once again huge credit to motm Ben E whose dominance at the line out is becoming legendary and he has now added ball carrying and tackling to his armoury.

A thoroughly professional performance in very difficult conditions from all the boys. JC

## **Sussex County Swimming Championships**

Ben C, Luca P and Alice R all competed in this very high standard event last weekend with great success.

They qualified for the finals in their various age groups with races at 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m in all strokes.

Ben's best result came in the 100m freestyle event where he came 5th.

Luca swam in 11 events; his best results came in the 200m butterfly and in the 100m freestyle where he finished in 5th and 7th place respectively.

Alice had a spectacular day! She came 4th in the 100m backstroke; 4th in the 50m back stroke; 6th in the 100m freestyle; 9th in the 50m freestyle; 6th in the 200m freestyle and 7th in the 200m back stroke. She recorded PB's in all events. Well done!

## **Ashdown Rugby 7's Tournament**

We travelled to the Ashdown 7's knowing that we would be in for a tough afternoon having been drawn in the same group as Great Walstead, Hazelwood, Cumnor House and Rose Hill.

We started well against Cumnor but were undone by 3 quick tries which all came from our own mistakes.

A desire to play well was our downfall as we began to rush things which in turn brought the mistakes. Little consolation was that Cumnor did not actually create any of their own tries so we knew that our defence was holding strong. Sam S managed to spin out of a tackle to score a try at the death but it was too little too late by that stage.

Great Walstead had beaten us comfortably a few Wednesdays ago but this game was to be slightly different. We played our best rugby of the season and pushed GW the whole way. They took an early lead but we hit right back with a superb solo try from Austin.

Firstly he made the tackle, and then ripped the ball from the attacker; he then broke through 2 tacklers before running the length of the field to score. GW grabbed another try through some good handling but we remained calm and kept some good possession. With the last play of the game GW stole the ball and scored the killer in the corner to record an unjust 3-1 win. Their coach even came up to me afterwards and said "Your boys have improved so much since we last met!" – That's always nice to hear.

Rose Hill were not up to the same standard and we raced into a 3 try lead at half time through Ben C (2) and Luca. This was the only game where I was left frustrated with the boys as we should have went on to win the game comfortably, however we let Rose Hill back in to score 3 tries and if it wasn't for another Ben C try we would have ended the day without a win!

Our final game was against a solid Hazelwood side, who are contesting the National Finals on Sunday. They were comfortably the best side in the group and ran out 7 tries winners to remain unbeaten.

It was always going to be a tough tournament so to leave after the group stage was no shame. The boys gave a good account of themselves, winning the game that they should have won and producing a fine display against Great Walstead. Well done to all 8 boys. MA

## **2nd XII v Ashdown House**

### **Lost 24-51**

This is the most difficult match report I have had to write this season. The boys had lost only 1 match to date and were starting against a team that had not yet won a match. In fact, we started strongly, when Josh V caught the kick off and ran strongly, evading several tackles to score immediately. We were 7-0 up after Nick K converted and we looked well set for a convincing victory.

Perhaps it was the ease of this first score that encouraged the boys to sit back and leave the tackling to others, because from this point on, almost every time that the opposition had possession they scored. I am afraid some players were actively moving out of the way to avoid contact and Ashdown House could not believe their luck. The outstanding exception to this was Nathan who showed a commitment and determination in the tackle from start to finish. He was deservedly man of the match and set an example which his peers should have followed. Freddie also deserves praise for playing through significant pain, lasting half the match and indeed scoring a try from a short pass taken at pace. Strong running skills were also on display as usual from Josh, not just in the first minute, and Dan W who scored two tries.

Rugby matches are usually won by the team with the best defence and ours, with the exception of Nathan, was very poor indeed this week. HS

## **Chess**

Congratulations to Zevon, Kieron and Sophie who helped Copthorne finish in third place from 14 schools at the Cottesmore Congress. Alex H, Sam R, Rafe C and Pranav L finished equal second earlier this week representing the Copthorne B team in the second round of the Sussex Under 11 Primary Cup.

The A team (Sophie, Cosmic, Rio and Antony) are playing on Monday.



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Felbridge Tennis Club 09.00 - 12.00pm

Haywards Heath Tennis Club 13.00 - 16.00pm

week 1  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

week 2  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

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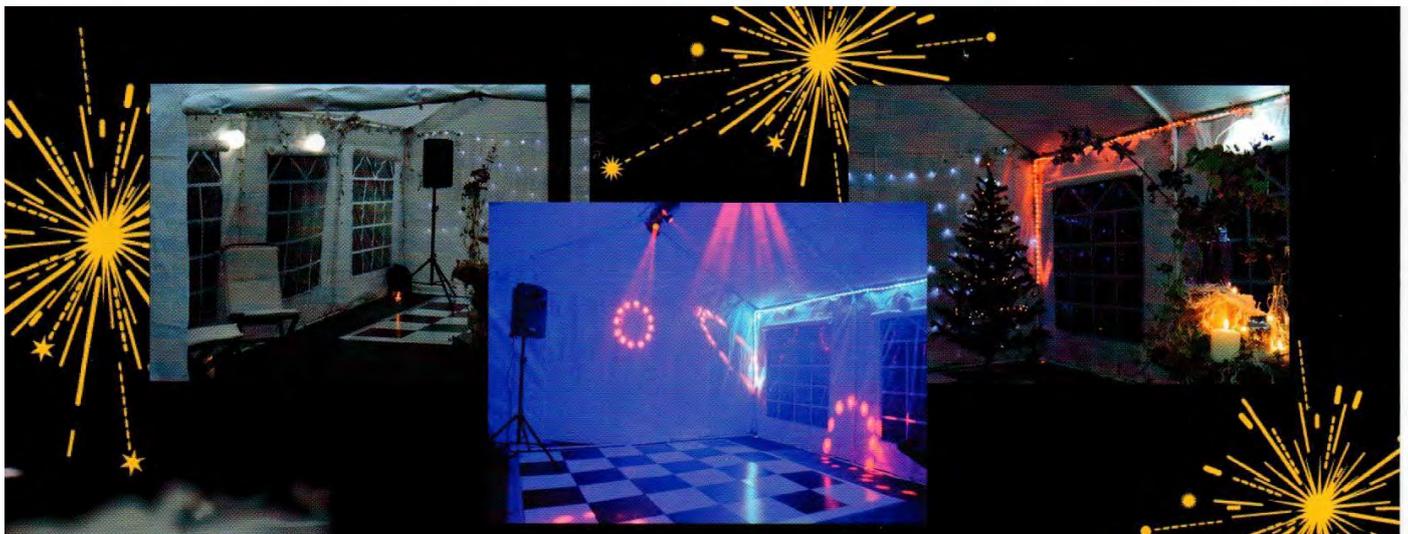
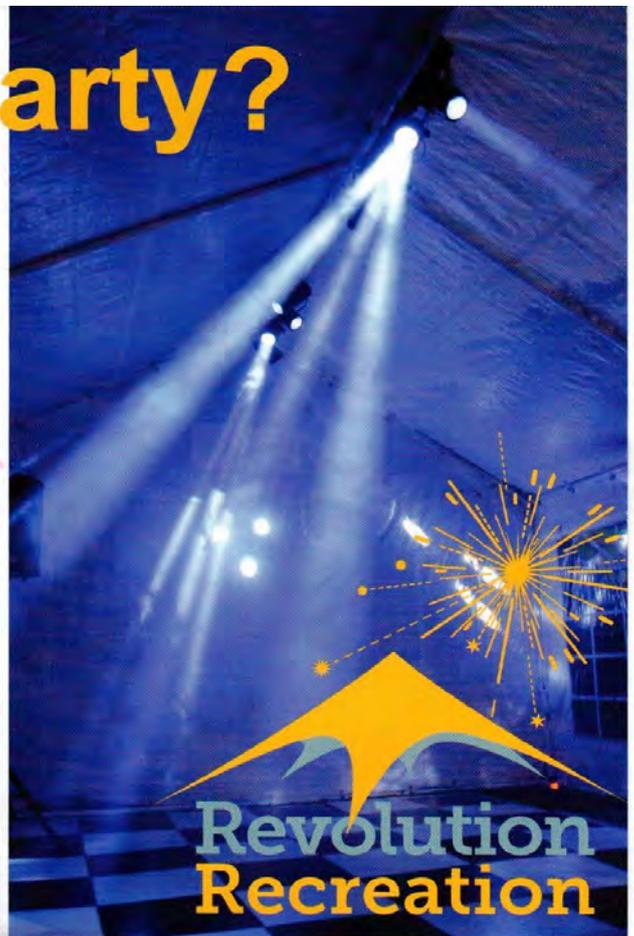
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