



GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Summer Newsletter 2020



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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



We have reached the end of the what has been the most remarkable school year! Little did we know just a few months ago, that we were to face a challenge the likes of which we have never experienced before. It was with a heavy heart that we had to close the school in March, but virtual GHS was up and running straight away and we all had to become experts at Microsoft Teams, YouTube videos and iPad

apps. Often through adversity, we see the very best in people and this has certainly been the case over the past three months. I cannot thank our wonderful girls, supportive parents, and my marvellous staff team enough – you have all been amazing.

We are all looking forward to September when school will return with some sort of normality. There will continue to be some restrictions on activities, but we are determined to get the school up and running as normally as possible for the girls. It will be fantastic to have the school back full of happy, smiling girls making the most of being in this wonderful place.

The girls have worked so hard this term in incredibly difficult circumstances and we are very proud of each one of them; they definitely all deserve a holiday! I hope you all have a chance for a break over the Summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school in September.

Mr Mike Gibb

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

**Mr Toby Day**

DEPUTY HEAD

Mr Toby Day is leaving us at the end of this term to take over as Headmaster of Lanesborough. Mr Day joined us in September 2016 and has been an outstanding Deputy Head of the Junior School. Renowned for his Movember moustache, assembly dingbats, odd socks and breakdancing (!), he has been central to Junior School life and will be missed greatly by all of us. He is an outstanding Maths teacher with a real passion for the subject; the girls love his lessons and strange fascination for algebra. I cannot thank him enough for his support, professionalism and huge capacity for hard work. Our loss will be Lanesborough's gain; he will be an outstanding Headteacher and we look forward to having even closer ties between the two schools over the coming years.

**Mrs Lucy Vroobel**

FORM TEACHER

Mrs Lucy Vroobel is leaving us to become Head of English at Lanesborough in September. Mrs Vroobel, then as Miss Newman, joined us in September 2017 and has worked as a Form Teacher in Years 3 and 4 as well as leading Humanities across the school. She is a much-loved Form Teacher and will be greatly missed by us all. We wish her well in her new role, especially with a new Headmaster who has just been appointed...

**Ms Pia Kanaan**

ART TEACHER

Ms Pia Kanaan has been with us for this year as our maternity cover Art Teacher. The girls have produced some outstanding artwork under her guidance and she has been a wonderful colleague with whom to work. She is off to teach in a school in Switzerland and we wish her all the best in her new school.

OUR VIRTUAL SCHOOL

When our school closed on 20 March due to Covid-19, the Guildford High School learning journey continued online for pupils with our dynamic, virtual learning programme. Teaching methods in the Junior School were age-specific and tailored to individual year groups. Our older pupils had the majority of their lessons taught live via Microsoft Teams. Before our youngest pupils returned to school, they used a range of GHS-made YouTube videos, audio PowerPoints and topic specific worksheets at home. Virtual assemblies also took place and were recorded by various staff. Here is a pictorial summary of 'GHS at Home'.



MUSIC NEVER STOPS AT GHS

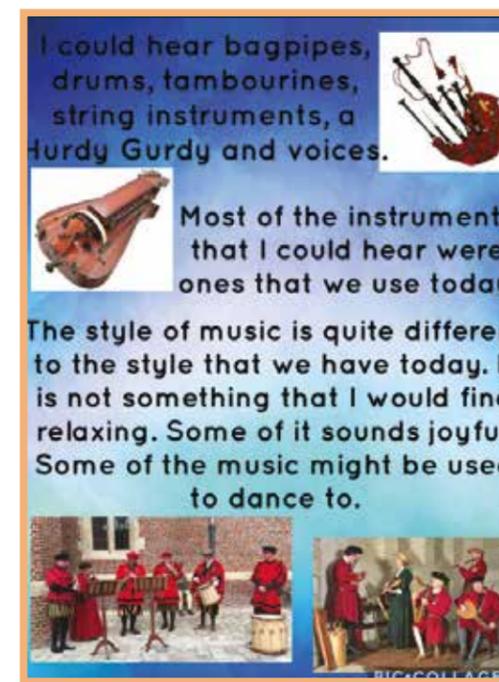
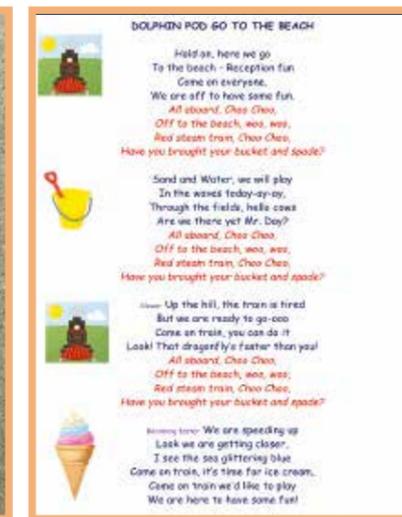
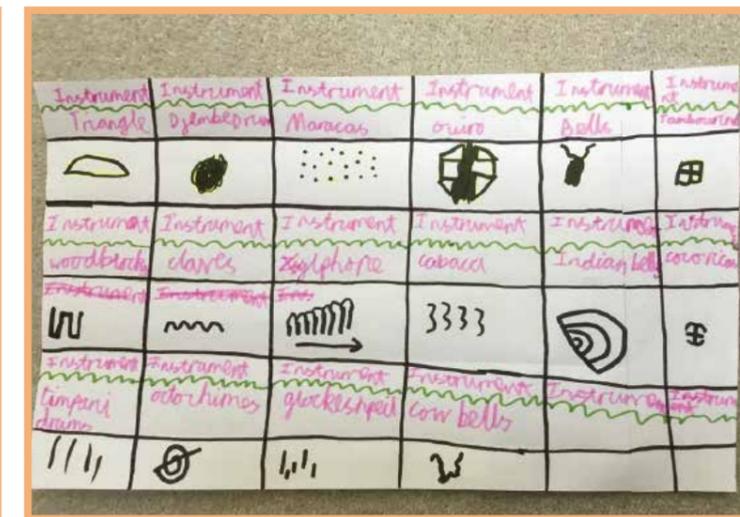
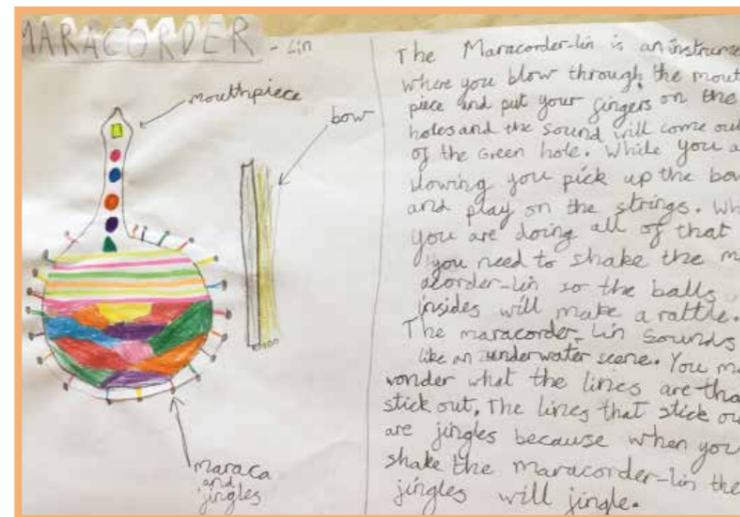
Music is usually a very collaborative and creative subject and we have managed to make it work this term through our distance learning. We have enjoyed the chance to sing to our hearts' content at home, learn new IT skills to listen to sound tracks, create videos, compose music, be inventive and make sure that as always....Music is fun!

Our Reception girls have had great fun learning songs linked to the theme of toys and games, choosing and rehearsing their favourite song ready to sing to their family audience whom they had invited to watch and sing with them. A series of summer-themed songs have rounded off our Trinity Term on a high note. Taking inspiration from Arthur Bliss' 'Colour Symphony', Year 1 were asked to use the character of the music they heard to imagine a scene and think of the colour the composer was trying to depict. The responses to the music were amazing through colour, pictures and even dance! No term is complete without singing so our Summer Sounds project involved listening to sounds indoors and outdoors; there were songs linked to birds, dragonflies and even wasps. The girls have loved being creative and I have no doubt they will be singing throughout the holidays. When Year 2 were given the challenge of making their own sounds using kitchen spoons, homemade maracas and stamping feet, they were excited to become composers. Learning about Graphic Score and how to write music without using staff notation, their symbols were creative and effective. We have concluded the year with some fabulous songs and a play script all about gardening. 'Blooming Gorgeous' has given us all so much pleasure with singing and acting out the play in the pods at the end of term.

Learning about each of the instruments of the orchestra without our usual demonstrations in the Music Room has made our work a little more frustrating. But listening to the sounds of each instrument and discovering how to play them has given Year 3 an excitement about the thought of choosing a new instrument to play! We ended our topic by creating our own instruments – the creativity and imagination of the girls was just wonderful. The highlight of Year 4's Folk Music topic is always the recording in the Trinity Term. Not to be put off by remote learning, the girls rose to the challenge amazingly and each class produced an Anthology of Folk Music recordings to be shared with their parents. From jazzed-up versions and modern takes, the range of instruments and even some inclusion from siblings and parents too, the girls were amazing at recording themselves and should be incredibly proud of their foray into the world of folk tunes.

I am sure Year 5 will look back and remember the fun they had learning from home and involving family members. They enlisted parents and siblings to act out sections of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean', equipped with costume and a range of voices! The songs were engaging and catchy, all thoroughly enjoyed. With posters and costumes, props and scenery designed, the missing link was of course an actual performance. But I know that some of the girls went a step further in their half term holiday, producing, acting, singing and dancing their way through the whole production to entertain their family! How fabulous! Recently, the girls were inspired by the world of Tudor Music. A whistle-stop musical tour of the world gave Year 6 the chance to encounter an exciting mix of pieces; some rather more pleasant than others and some giving chance for thought about culture and purpose of Music in different countries. The end of what has been for some seven years in the Junior School at GHS, is a time when you want to celebrate. So that is what we have managed to do through a special pandemic production of 'Peter Pan!' The songs are fabulous, the script is witty, and the acting and enthusiasm from the girls in each pod has been spectacular. The final day of recording the performance was truly historic!

Mrs Rachel Wardell



YEAR 6 PERFORM IN 'PETER PAN' - THE PANDEMIC PRODUCTION

What an experience! This was something completely out of the ordinary: the chance to record a production despite social distancing and being in pods, a way to celebrate the end of our time in the Junior School. A day of being on a film set in the school gardens near the 2016 Hall and Harper House, with props expertly made and hung from various trees and bushes, wrapped round trellis and a stone bird bath; what a perfect setting for Peter Pan!

As our excitement mounted, we stepped in front of the camera to perform our pandemic production. As the camera started rolling, we embraced our characters. We all spoke with clear diction and great delivery of the script. The songs were jazzy and catchy with groovy moves and actions as always.

Each scene had been especially designed to work for the three Year 6 pods of girls, with individual props and different scene settings around the gardens. We battled with the elements of the wind making the leaves on the trees rustle, the neighbouring lawnmower (and also the aeroplanes) and even the very persistent hammer working away inside a building near by – nothing could put a stop to this show!

As the day moved on, the excitement grew. This really was a chance of a lifetime. Filming outside made everything seem really down to earth – perhaps we enjoyed this more than being squashed on a stage in the Hall?

With the amazing help of Miss Elliott behind the camera, not even social distancing could prevent us from performing a Year 6 production of which we are so proud. As a year group we have always loved doing productions but perhaps this was our best ever - with 'Splash', 'Robin Hood' and now 'Peter Pan', this slightly unusual but highly enjoyable production is pretty historic!

Back at the start of this half term, we couldn't see how a production would be possible. But it was. With our wonderful, amazing and spectacular, terribly talented teachers working so hard as a team, they and we all managed to make the impossible possible.

'Peter Pan', the pandemic production. One we will never forget.

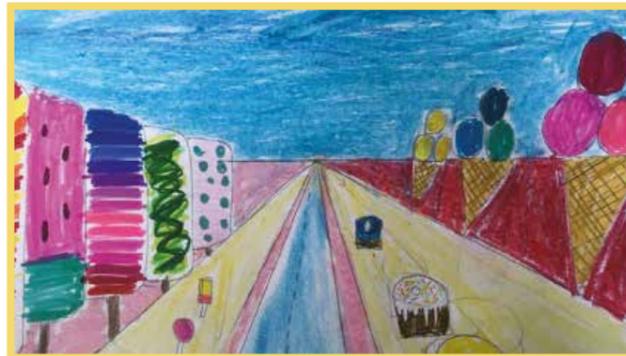
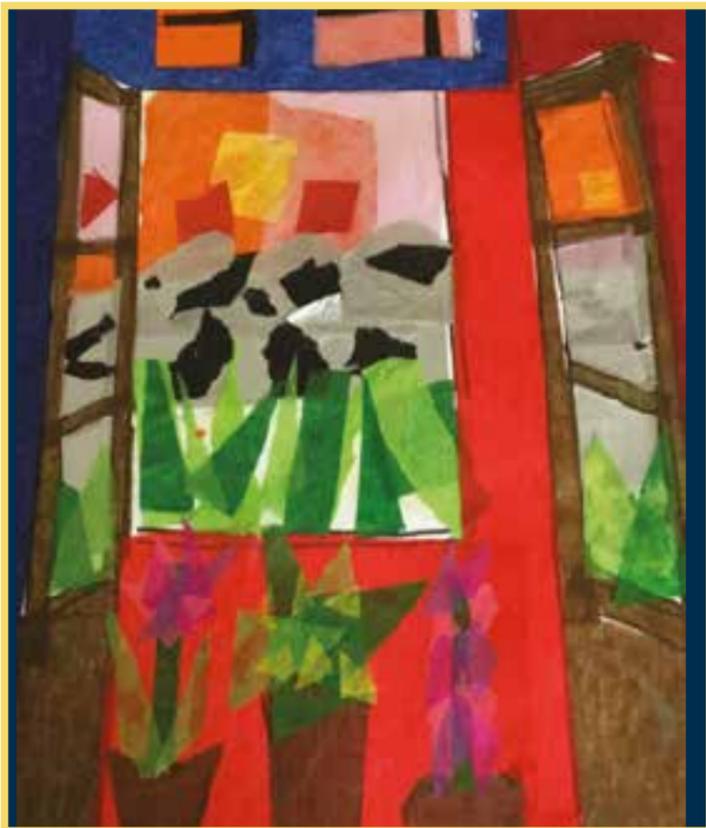
Year 6



BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK INSPIRED BY THE WORLD AROUND US

As physical classes ceased to run until further notice this term, my immediate response was of surprise and trepidation followed by an excited feeling of being challenged and I knew this would be a wonderful opportunity to teach in a new way. Learning and growing does not stop and the girls rose to the challenge stoically. They could recognise each other's work and give constructive assessment and I too was able to give immediate feedback which allowed me to see immediate improvements. What proved possible was that our programme was as vibrant, engaging and creative as any in the classroom. Please enjoy some of the fruits of careful planning, mixed with motivation and the talent of our exceptional girls. I enjoyed my online classes and as I relayed to the girls, their artwork brought great joy.

Ms Pia Kanaan



COMMUNITY ACTION AT GHS

In the last few months, staff, pupils & their families, have come together to support our local community and our wider school community in many different ways.

In the Junior School, girls threw themselves into the 'GHS 26' challenge to raise funds for UK charities. For some, the funds raised were specifically for the NHS and the Royal Surrey County Hospital after they had taken such good care of their family during this time. In true GHS style, the girls surpassed themselves with their own impressive and creative array of challenges. A plethora of scrubs, masks, headbands and bags were sewn for the frontline NHS staff by teaching staff, girls and parents.

At home girls have also been baking cupcakes and making flower arrangements for local people, sewing lavender bags for the elderly, delivering and cooking meals for the vulnerable and collectively running hundreds of miles to raise funds for the NHS. Louisa and her sister also gave a concert every Thursday whilst their neighbours were clapping for the NHS

Mrs Jenni Hall



BERTIE THE BALL FLIES HIGH IN THE SKY WITH PRE-PREP PE

Reception and Year 1 have had a wonderful term of PE! Just before Easter they were all given a tennis ball to take home, decorate and name ready to join in with “Bertie the Ball and his adventures.” Bertie was our PE department tennis ball and he has had a great time getting up to lots of different challenges during the online learning period. He has seen how high he can fly into the sky, he has bounced downstairs, he has been held between feet when forward rolling and even balanced on frying pans, shoes and various other household items. Bertie and all his friends really enjoyed their online challenges with our Pre-Prep girls, and we were very pleased to have so many wonderful photos and videos sent in by parents. Bertie and his friends continued adventuring as Reception and Year 1 came back into school and the tennis balls provided some much-needed entertainment at break and lunch when most other toys were unavailable.

As well as improving their fundamental co-ordination with their ball, the girls have also enjoyed a range of other tasks from online “Rumble in the Jungle” yoga with Miss Dustin to skipping tutorials with Miss Foster. It was a joy to see the girls come back into school and be nurtured by the social and collaborative PE environment.

Miss Georgie Dustin



YEAR 2 AND KS2 ENJOY VIRTUAL PE WITH DRY LAND SWIMMING AND FRYING PAN BATS

We have always taken pride as a PE department in the broad and well-rounded variety of sport our girls get to experience in their PE journeys here with us at GHS. Despite the barriers we have needed to overcome in delivering online lessons, the KS2 girls have enjoyed everything from Disney dancing, DIY hurdles, dry land swimming and cricket performance analysis to name just a few.

Despite a lack of fixtures, the GHS Cricket season has been in full swing with girls enjoying the opportunity to fine tune those striking, bowling and fielding skills. The use of their iPad has allowed them to film and self-evaluate their physical skills against their knowledge of technique and teaching points. We have loved how creative the girls have been with their equipment; many of our GHS Dads may be grateful to have their frying pans and shoes back now we are finished using them as makeshift bats!

We concluded our Swimming and Athletic studies for the term with some creative online learning. The 'GHS Dry-Land Swimming Challenge' will always be a fond memory of our online learning and I am sure the girls and staff will return to it any time they need a smile. In addition to the usual activity areas we would study in the Trinity Term online learning has provided us with an incredible opportunity for the girls to sample many alternative ways for them to stay fit. Girls have been posting their attempts at the various activities on our "Get Active" online club in addition to posting on our other online clubs for Cricket, Tennis, Gym and Athletics this term. From intensive workouts, such as HIIT sessions, Boxing and Dancing, to more gentle sessions such as Yoga and mobility workouts there has been something for everyone. The most important takeaway is that, in both PE and general health and fitness, it is not about being a master of all these activities, but rather about finding one which works for you and making the most of the enjoyment and movement it brings.

Miss Georgie Dustin



VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF SPORTS 2020

This year girls were able to enjoy not just one Sports Day but the chance to compete and score valuable points for their House on a weekly basis. Whilst Pre-Prep girls worked hard to score for their House and be in with the chance to win a medal sticker, Years 2 -6 enjoyed five virtual events over the last half term which involved a variety of physical challenges.

Girls have been trying to air-cycle from London to Brighton, climb enough stairs to reach the top of The Shard and even try to take enough steps to climb Everest. However, their most exciting challenge was to try and beat their teachers in an “as many rounds as possible” fitness challenge. Each week they have diligently uploaded their top scores to Showbie for the PE team to collate, and we have loved celebrating individual winners and leading Houses from each year group.

In July we held a day of online sporting workout workshops lead by the GHS PE staff. We had a huge number of girls from all year groups tune in live to HIIT, Boxfit, Skipping and Yoga sessions and no doubt some of our amazing parents gave the sessions a good go too! Thank you to everyone who ‘tuned in’ live to our results ceremony at the end of the day, each and every Junior School girl has made a significant contribution to her House total during this event and it was wonderful to be able to celebrate their success.

Congratulations to Abbot House who ran, jumped and threw their way to victory this year in the Pre-Prep sporting antics and a further congratulations to Watts House on lifting the Sports Day trophy for KS2. Well done to all our individual athletes on their podium finishes.

Miss Georgie Dustin



KEY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21 AND 2021-22

MICHAELMAS TERM 2020

Term Starts: Thursday 3 September
October Half Term: Monday 19 October - Friday 30 October
Term Ends: Tuesday 15 December
(School finishes at 11:45)
Planning Day: Tuesday 1 September
INSET Day: Wednesday 2 September

LENT TERM 2021

Term Starts: Monday 4 January
February Half Term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February
Term Ends: Friday 26 March
(School finishes at 11:45)
Entrance Examinations: Friday 8 January
(No school for Junior girls)

TRINITY TERM 2021

Term Starts: Monday 19 April
May Half Term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June
Term Ends: Thursday 8 July
(School finishes at 11:45)
Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May
INSET Day: Friday 28 May

MICHAELMAS TERM 2021

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September
October Half Term: Monday 18 October - Friday 29 October
Term Ends: Tuesday 14 December
(School finishes at 11:45)
INSET Day: Wednesday 1 September

LENT TERM 2022

Term Starts: Wednesday 5 January
February Half Term: Monday 14 February - Friday 18 February
Term Ends: Friday 25 March
Entrance Examinations: Friday 7 January
(No school for Junior girls)

TRINITY TERM 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 19 April
May Half Term: Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
Term Ends: Friday 8 July
(School finishes at 11:45)
Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May



Inspiring Girls

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