The second half of the Spring term has been incredibly exciting, eventful and enriching with our inaugural trip to Iceland for our Biology and Geography students; Business and ICT trip to Disneyland, Paris and A level Textile exhibition at Highcliffe Castle. Inside this edition of the Highcliffe Sixth newsletter, please enjoy reading details of these enriching activities and more, including our new advice evening for applications to top universities.

**ICELANDIC ADVENTURE 2017**

Sixth Form Geography and Biology students experience the natural wonders of Iceland!
GEOGRAPHY AND BIOLOGY ICELAND TRIP

The aim of the Sixth Form trip to Iceland was to look at the Geography, Geology and Biology of ecosystems in an extreme environment. Iceland was chosen as the perfect venue as it is where the American and Eurasian Tectonic plates meet, which provides a unique range of habitats, all of volcanic origin. As part of the trip, a scientific specialist accompanied the group throughout providing the knowledge and expertise required for our A level students’ study programme.

This truly was a unique and fantastic experience for all the students involved, and their daily blog on our website is a ‘must-read’. Please click here goo.gl/8TgmjZ to read the blog and visit our new Facebook page to view an album of photographs.
**MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE AT DISNEYLAND**

Sixth Form ICT and Business Studies students attended an educational conference in Disneyland, Paris on the 26th February, 2017.

In addition to enjoying the thrills and spills of Disneyland, our ICT and Business Studies students attended talks from the Chief Financial Officer from Superdry, an Account Manager from Walt Disney Company and the Head of Brand from Innocent Smoothies. The students said it was particularly interesting to hear how ICT and social media has driven demand for their products creating a customer community which fosters brand loyalty.

Our appreciation, as always, goes to our fantastic Highcliffe students who were impeccably behaved and great company throughout. To view the daily blog of the trip, please click here: goo.gl/pNsk1L

**HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE SPRING EXHIBITION 2017**

This month, Highcliffe School celebrated over ten consecutive years of exhibiting the artistic talents of its students at Highcliffe Castle. Traditionally, the exhibition has displayed a range of art and design work from across the curriculum, however, this year a break of tradition was called for to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our A level Textile students.

Our Year 12 and 13 Textile students’ work demonstrates a stunning portrayal of ‘independence’, explored through the medium of textiles. The students’ creative work offers unique and thought provoking installations showing versatility and an understanding of both concept and personal response.

We are incredibly proud of our Textile students who have produced work of outstanding creativity, variety and technical excellence.

To read more, please click here: goo.gl/WB7hXF
USING HIGHCLIFFE SIXTH FORM TO GAIN ADMISSION TO A TOP UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 15th March, Highcliffe Sixth Form successfully ran an information and guidance event aimed to assist prospective Sixth Form students with their applications to a Russell Group, or other top UK universities.

The event was intended to ensure that applicants for our Sixth Form understand the full advantages of the subjects, enrichment opportunities and UCAS/careers guidance we offer; that students are prepared with knowledge of important matters which will help them gain admission to the top universities.

The evening consisted of an information and guidance session relevant to all subjects followed by breakout sessions with specific guidance about the Sciences (including Psychology), Medicine, the Allied Health Professions, English and Mathematics related degrees.

For those that were unable to attend the evening and as a reminder to those who did, a booklet containing information regarding these subjects and the opportunities and guidance provided by them will be forwarded to all Sixth Form applicants during the Easter Holidays.

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

On the 3rd March, we were visited by The Arts University of Bournemouth to interview students for their Foundation course within Art and Design. Chloe Rendell, Jess Michell, Molly Southcombe, Liv Trant, Jasmine Glyde, Betsy Buckley-Mellor, Olivia Pegg and Josh McCormick from year 13 displayed outstanding Portfolios of work, demonstrating the creative excellence our students are becoming known for.

The interviews went on throughout the day and the feedback from the AUB course leader was excellent. He expressed that this was the strongest cohort of students we had put forward in a few years, and was exceptionally impressed with the skills demonstrated. The student’s ability to talk about their work confidently was also praised as they had shown a mature and critical understanding of what they had been doing.

All 8 students were offered places on the course for next year and will use this to further develop their skills within creative subjects.

OXBRIDGE CONFERENCE EPSOM DOWN

“Today provided me with a refreshing insight into the atmosphere at Oxford and Cambridge. The talks were concise and delivered by students and lecturers themselves. I personally found the information given about courses and teaching methods gave me a clearer picture of what I want to do after Sixth Form. We were all surprised to learn that both universities offer generous bursaries and outreach schemes to accept the most talented students regardless of circumstances and this has raised our aspirations and motivated us.”

Y12 Sixth Form student
A CAREER IN MEDICINE STEMS FROM HERE...

Our Sixth Form students receive offers to Medical School and celebrate over lunch with Deputy Head, Mr N O’Connor.

We are delighted to inform you that, since our last medics bulletin, our applications to Medical School stand at:

* Caitlin McNee Smith has received offers from both Cardiff and Southampton. Caitlin has also had an interview at Newcastle which we have just heard that she has been offered a place for Medicine. In addition she has also received an insurance offer to study on a Biomedical Sciences degree at Bristol.

* Pippa Peters-Cheale has received an offer from University College London for Medical Sciences with Engineering. We are very really pleased that they have lowered their standard offer to AAB for Pippa. Full credit to Pippa for this! She has also had interviews at King’s College London and Nottingham and has so far received an offer from KCL and is waiting to hear from Nottingham. Pippa, like Caitlin has been offered an insurance place at Bristol to study Biomedical Sciences.

* Mathew Clark-Wheeler is in the very fortunate position of having an unconditional offer from Bristol and is waiting to hear the outcome of his interview at Southampton.

* Kelly de Stadler is also in the very same fortunate position to have received an unconditional offer from Imperial College, London.

We wait to hear further interview updates and wish them well with their studies in the lead up to the summer examinations.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS FOR 2017

The university offers and interview season continues in earnest with the deadline fast approaching: 4th May. Congratulations to our Year 13s on their offers so far – keep up the hard work to secure the grades required!

Special congratulations go to:
Elizabeth Allum for securing a conditional offer from Oxford University to read Medicine &
Matthew Lockley for securing a conditional offer from Cambridge University to read Natural Sciences.

GOING DIGITAL FOR GROWTH

Highcliffe Castle 21 March 2017 - Get your Business Up to Speed

As part of Christchurch Borough Council ‘Go for Growth’ Miss Burden and five Year 13 students went to a Business Breakfast at Highcliffe Castle which was attended by a large number of local businesses. We had some guest speakers, Jake Moore from Dorset Police who gave a really interesting talk on Cyber Security for Businesses and also, Sharlene Lopez from Eye Catcher Media spoke about global marketing.

“The overall experience was great; we got to talk to a variety of people whose jobs require ICT in there every day work life. Talking to them about different work experiences and their views on apprenticeships, gave us all range of ideas about our own futures using ICT”.

Y13 ICT student
YEAR 12 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

As part of the Year 12 calendar, a Celebration Assembly was held on the 20th March to commend students for their excellent work, extra-curricular achievements and contribution to Sixth Form life.

The assembly, enhanced with Danish pastries and hot chocolate, celebrated student progress in terms of their commendations, outstanding attitude or behaviour on a school trip or event and contribution to the whole school community. Students were given certificates if they were in the top 10 for each commendation category.

Examples of categories and award winners:

Excellent Work - Rachel Brangan
Actively Engaged in Learning - Lydia Blakeney
Helping Others Learn - Rachel Brangan

Breakthrough in Learning - Zoe Sheard
Demonstrating Initiative - Mollie Bailly
Consideration for Others - Finlay Graham

Special mentions:

Hangil Chung - Outstanding Achievement in Music
Charlotte Ward and Caitlin Hartigan for excellent work in Business Studies
Sid Anders and Jow Sowden - excellent contributions in Sociology
Rhiannon Walls - most improved essay writing
Zoe Sheard - achieving a place on the Corpus Christi Chemistry Master Class at Cambridge University

STEM ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

Highcliffe Sixth attended the annual district Rotary Club Technology Tournament.

Our KSS team managed an outstanding effort and achieved 3rd place. Jack Towle, Alex Bayne, Sophie McCammon and Brad Arter developed an excellent solution and an exceptionally well-engineered bridge, narrowly missing out on the top spot due to a technical malfunction at the final hurdle.

SIXTH FORMERS GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER...

CPR Training has started at Highcliffe School. Sixth formers were involved in sessions this week taken by Mrs Thompson using training kits provided by the British Heart Foundation. Training will be offered in the future to all the school years. To show our continued support to the British Heart Foundation, a donation will be made from the proceeds of the forthcoming Mufti Day on 7th April and also towards buying a second defibrillator for the Da Vinci building.
We take great delight in hearing from our alumni and welcoming them back into the school. It is extremely rewarding for the staff to hear the achievements of past students and hugely motivating and inspirational to our students. Here are two such accounts of our inspiring alumni:

Rebecca Tooze, Exeter University, Biological Sciences

Rebecca is now in her second year at Exeter University and after delighting us with her account of biological studies with owls in her first year, Rebecca has been in touch again with news of her latest adventure:

“I have recently got back from Peru having done the Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu! It was one of the most incredible experiences ever and much more difficult than I was expecting but made it to the end despite being very bruised and injured by the end of it! I am leading a team this year to Everest Base Camp for Hope for Children which is very exciting but also a lot of responsibility to make sure everyone is reaching their targets and having to organise fundraising workshops and socials etc!! They do a lot of work with children in both the UK and in deprived countries by helping them be self sufficient and providing education and food and do receive some sponsorship from Children in Need and Comic Relief but are not a massively known charity!

I am also the Chair of the Biosciences Student-Staff Liaison Committee this year which is a bit daunting because I kind of got thrown into the role and now have to have meetings with people very important within the university!

University is going incredibly quickly! Lots of essays starting to do with mitochondrial dynamics which is really interesting! I’m on the programme to do a conservation project next June in the Bahamas to look at coral reefs and then will be on a years’ study abroad hopefully to Australia so I’m really looking forward to that! (I promise I am doing work in the middle of all of this!)

Becky

Bradley Tombleson, Southampton University, population and Geography

“I’m currently at the University of Southampton studying BSc Population and Geography, the perfect hybrid between human geography and demography (demography is essentially the study of past and future trends in births, deaths, disease and migration). The degree may focus heavily on statistics, but I’m on track to obtain a first-class honours degree, having avoided Maths since my grade C at GCSE! So, don’t underestimate your abilities...

Thanks to the skills I’ve gained from Highcliffe, my degree programme, and the opportunities provided by Southampton, I’ve been able to pursue a variety of different work-related avenues: from working on a (voluntary) female empowerment project in India, and researching in Ghana; to being an student ambassador in China and an international student in Canada. I’ve been able to fulfil my dream of travelling during my degree, and I’ve certainly not been bored!

I regularly think about the memories I made at Highcliffe and just how fantastic those seven years were. Of course there were a lot of ‘peaks and troughs’, as with anything in life, but I think this is evidence of our passion; it shows that we care. Highcliffe taught me the power of ambition, resilience and friendship, and these lessons will remain with me well-beyond graduation. Believe in yourself and you can achieve!”

Bradley

‘We desire for all our students to ‘be remarkable’ in their studies and in their adult lives’
Alumni of 2016

Our A Level students who went on to read courses related to English Literature and Language subjects in 2016

Satiah Lilly Austin  
Winchester University  
Law

Anthony Bailey  
Bournemouth University  
Multimedia Journalism

Heather Baugh  
Brighton Institute of Modern Music  
Music Journalism

Eleanor Brad  
Bristol University  
Law

Alice Clifford  
Cardiff University  
English Literature/Spanish

Amber Crain  
Surrey University  
English Literature with Creative Writing

Ryan Cutler  
Bournemouth University  
Communication and Media

Phoebe Grinter  
Cardiff University  
English Literature

Lucy Keats  
Exeter University  
Law

Megan Leonard  
Brunel University  
Communication and Media Studies

Laura Lomax  
Reading University  
Speech and Language Therapy

Jamie Marsh  
Chichester University  
Digital Film Production and Screenwriting

Freya Norley  
Bath Spa University  
Creative Writing & English Literature

Isabel Riding  
Bristol University  
Law

Benjamin Taylor  
Leeds Beckett University  
Film-making

Ella Taylor  
Plymouth University  
English and Creative Writing

Emily Worrall  
Sheffield University  
English and Music

In our next editions: university places gained in: International Studies, Business/Economics & Computing, Expressive Arts, Art/Design & Technology

Upcoming enrichment activities and events:

- 25th April - Buddhist Monastery Trip
- 27th April - Y12 Higher Education Convention
- May - June External Exams
- 26th May - Y13 curriculum ends; BBQ & Awards Ceremony

Please follow us on our newly launched Facebook page: www.facebook/highcliffesixth

With exam season fast approaching, we wish all our Year 12 and Year 13 students the best of luck with their revision and exams.

Wishing all our students and their families a very Happy Easter holiday!