

Charity Registration No. 312079

Company Registration No. 788762 (England and Wales)

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Governors	Mr CA Griffith (Chair) Mr AP Shawyer (Vice-Chair) Mr NG Bird Mr AJ Evans Ms PJ Hutchinson Mr AC MacFarlane Mrs JG Moran (Resigned 07/07/23) Ms LM Scott (Resigned 30/11/22) Mr SB Sullivan (Resigned 07/07/23) Mr CW Jayaweera (Appointed 08/06/23)
Principal	Mr S Edmonds
Deputy Heads of Senior School	Mr S Leigh Mrs H Blake (Resigned 31/08/2023)
Head of Prep School	Mrs L Macallister
Secretary	Ms J Abraham
Charity number	312079
Company number	788782
Registered office	Church Street Ewell Surrey KT17 2AW
Auditor	Moore Kingston Smith
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC
Solicitors	A.J. Lutley DMH Stallard LLP

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

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EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The governors of Ewell Castle School are the charity's trustees under charity law and directors of the charitable company. The members of the governing body who served in office as governors during the period and up to the date of the report are as follows:

Mr CA Griffith
Mrs JG Moran (Resigned 07/07/23)
Mr NG Bird
Mr AJ Evans
Ms PJ Hutchinson
Mr AC MacFarlane
Ms LM Scott (Resigned 30/11/22)
Mr AP Shawyer
Mr SB Sullivan (Resigned 07/07/23)
Mr CW Jayaweera (Appointed 08/06/23)

The governors of Ewell Castle School present their annual report, incorporating the strategic report and the audited financial statements of Ewell Castle School for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

We confirm that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Constitution and objects

Ewell Castle School was established in 1926 and was incorporated on 22 January 1964 as a company limited by guarantee. The company is a registered Charity and it is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association last amended on 25 January 2006, when the Company also changed its name from Ewell Castle School Limited to Ewell Castle School by a special resolution.

The principal objects of the Company are:

1. to purchase or otherwise acquire, establish, maintain, conduct and carry on schools and colleges for the education of boys, girls, or adult students of either sex and to provide for the delivery and holding of classes, lectures, exhibitions and conferences calculated to advance the cause of education
 2. to do all such acts and things as may be deemed necessary for imparting instruction and for the encouragement of study, education and learning
 3. to spread the knowledge of and belief in and otherwise to promote the fundamental principles of the Christian religion
 4. to support, organise, endow, finance, maintain, and provide for public or private lectures, meetings, addresses, professorships, lectureships, and readerships, calculated to promote the said principles; to provide, fit up and equip classrooms, laboratories, gymnasias, swimming baths, playing fields, dining and recreation rooms, dwelling houses, hostels, boarding houses, hotels, and other accommodation and conveniences for pupils, masters, mistresses, and other persons employed by the Company or performing any function or doing any act in furtherance of the educational or religious purposes of the Company
 5. to create and administer and to assist in the creation and administration of scholarships, exhibitions and prizes for the encouragement of study and learning
 6. to act as trustees or managers of any property, endowment, bequest, or gift for educational purposes;
 7. to receive voluntary donations and subscriptions for any of the purposes of the Company, and to accord to the donors thereof such privileges of nomination of pupils or otherwise as the Company shall from time to time determine.
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EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The school operates as an independent, co-educational school for pupils from 2 ½ to 18 years comprising a Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School for pupils from 2 ½ to 7 years, a Preparatory School for pupils from 7 to 11 years and a Senior School for pupils from 11 to 18 years.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In setting objectives and planning activities, we have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our bursary policy contributes to a widening of access to the education we offer and the facilities we enjoy as it is important to us that access to the education we offer is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. We believe our pupils benefit from learning within a diverse community. A great deal of learning occurs through social interaction, conversation and shared experiences which helps our pupils develop an understanding of the perspectives of other people that will be vital in their adult lives.

Bursary policy

The governors view our bursary awards as important in helping to ensure children from families who would otherwise not be able to afford the fees can access the education we offer. Our bursary awards are available to all who meet our general entry requirements and are made solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk for example in the case of redundancy.

In assessing means we take a number of factors into consideration, including family income, investments and savings and family circumstances for example dependant relatives and the number of siblings. However, our School does not have a large endowment and in funding our awards we have to be mindful that we must ensure a balance between fee-paying parents, many of whom make considerable personal sacrifices to fund their child's education, and those benefiting from the awards.

Ewell Castle is pleased to record continued public benefit offered through means tested bursaries. In 22/23, the value of means tested bursaries totalled £392,876 and represented 3.6% of our gross fees. Bursaries provided assistance to 39 of our pupils of which 6 pupils benefitted from a full remission of fees. The bursary awards range from 15% to 100% remission of fees.

A hardship fund is also available to provide short term financial assistance with fees and to help pupils in receipt of bursaries meet the costs of school trips, music lessons, examination entrance fees and similar expenses.

OTHER POLICIES ON ASSISTANCE

Financial planning policy

Timely financial planning is often the key for many parents who are hoping to send their children to Ewell Castle School and the School has partnered with School Fee Plan to help those who wish to fund educational costs through regular rather than termly payments.

Siblings discounts policy

To underline the value we place on support for families, we offer a modest discount where parents have more than one child at the School.

Assistance for our teaching staff

As part of our emphasis on attracting and retaining high calibre staff, we offer a discount scheme where staff members choose to educate their children at our School.

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GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

PROMOTING HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Scholarship policy

The purpose of our scholarship awards is to recognise high academic potential or the ability to excel in our co-curricular activities. Our scholarships are awarded on the basis of the individual's academic potential or evidence of exceptional abilities which will contribute to our co-curricular activities. In addition, awards may be subject to conditions imposed by the original donor.

Scholarships are awarded with a fixed remission of fees of between 5% and 25%. Where further assistance is required, scholarship awards may be supplemented by a means tested bursary. In 2022/23, the School awarded scholarships to 108 pupils, based on their educational merit and potential, totalling £ 311,962 and representing 2.8% of our gross fees. Of this number, 10 also qualified for means-tested bursary support and are included in the figures relating to bursary awards.

The progress of pupils receiving scholarships is reviewed at least annually to ensure their progress is in line with their abilities. No scholarships were withdrawn in the year as a result of reviews.

Further details of our scholarship policy are available on request.

Community access

In keeping with our policy of widening access to facilities, at fee rates below commercial levels, subsidised arrangements are enjoyed by many groups eg. Fitznells School of Music & Drama, The Associated Board of Royal School of Music – theory, Stewart Cricket Centre and Surrey County Cricket Club, a local allotment society, and Mole Valley Bowmen – archery club.

We offer holiday sports courses and play schemes as well as hours beyond normal school day to our charges– ie. early morning care and after school care. We also play host to several other local associations including the Ewell Village Fair and various Heritage events and archaeological visits/works. Indeed the very upkeep of three listed buildings and sites within the village is itself of significant value to the community.

The Governors confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our aims are to INSPIRE-ENGAGE-EXCEL.

We aim to provide an independent co-educational through school that offers our children an excellent education from Nursery right through to Sixth Form, and also provides outstanding pastoral care and a broad range of co-curricular activities where they can be happy. We provide a stimulating, rigorous and tailored academic programme that pays close attention to the needs of the individual, facilitated by small class sizes.

Our high expectations enable our pupils to achieve their full potential both inside and outside the classroom and to develop their abilities, character and confidence to meet the demands of the 21st century. The happy, family-friendly nature of our School community is underpinned by excellent pastoral care. Pupils, parents and staff have strong relationships of mutual understanding and a commitment to our values of personal integrity, mutual respect, social responsibility, lifelong resilience.

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GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Policies of the Trustees

As governors we are responsible for setting a strategy for achieving the objectives we have set. The focus of our strategy is on the development of our pupils, their continued high levels of academic and co-curricular achievement and to further widen access to the education our School provides. In taking forward our strategy we:

- review and benchmark the School's academic syllabus, teaching practices and examination results
- ensure the range of co-curricular activities available to our pupils is stimulating and challenging
- invest in technology and the infrastructure of our School
- give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance

Our objectives are set to reflect our educational aims and the ethos of the school and it is important to us that we maintain and enhance the academic success of the school. This objective is, however, set in the context of the broader goals we set for the school and its pupils.

The primary objectives in 2022/23 to fulfil these aims were:

- to broaden and decolonise our academic curriculum
- to implement the School's digital strategy
- to enhance and improve the participation in co-curricular provision
- to continue to develop the first class pastoral care we provide for pupils
- to plan for development of the premises to capitalise on the school's popularity
- to improve the quality of teaching and learning to become a "high performance learning school"

All strategies, policies and objectives are reviewed regularly by the governors and senior leadership team to identify and monitor progress. Priority in the use of resources is given to achieving the objectives in the school development

Structure, governance and management

Governance

The company is organised with a Board of Governors with a member being nominated as Chair. Governors are elected at a Meeting of the Governing Body on the basis of nominations received. Nominations are made by existing governors and from the school Senior Management Team. We are currently reviewing our governance arrangements and taking active steps to diversify our membership.

To ensure an adequate mix of skills within the governing body, we apply the following criteria to the recruitment process:

- all governors should possess appropriate and adequate experience to enable them to add value to the overall effective administration of the school on a strategic level;
- a number of the governors should ideally possess experience of the independent schools' sector;
- a number of governors should possess adequate professional or commercial experience (e.g. business, accounting, banking, legal etc.) to enable them to contribute to the overall effective administration of the School; and
- recruitment to the governing Body should reflect our aim to encourage diversity.

There is no fixed term of office for governors. A governor may be appointed by invitation to become a governor of the company and removed by a written request from all the other governors.

The Principal and Bursar attend all full meetings of the Governing Body. The Clerk to the Governing Body is responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Governors and their Committees, preparation of papers and the review of matters arising.

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GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Management

The governors determine the general policy of the School and appoint the Principal and Executive Leadership Team who comprise the Key Management Personnel (see note 9 to the accounts). The board delegates executive responsibilities to the Principal, supported by senior staff. The Principal undertakes the key leadership role overseeing educational, pastoral and administrative functions in consultation with the senior staff. The day to day administration of both the Prep and Senior School is undertaken within the policies and procedures approved by the governors which provide for only significant expenditure decisions and major capital projects to be referred.

The Principal is a member of the Society of Heads and the Deputy Heads of Senior School and Head of Prep School are also members of the Society as a 'Deputy Head' and Head of Prep School' respectively. In addition, the Head of Prep School is also a member of IAPS (Independent Association of Preparatory Schools), and the Bursar is a member of ISBA (Independent Schools Bursars' Association). The school is a member of AGBIS (Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools).

As such, members of the Senior Leadership Team are able to promote and maintain the standards at Ewell Castle School in general terms and are also able to take part in peer group studies for the evaluation of quality and performance improvement methods. Membership also permits appropriate representation to Government and regulators of the views of the sector.

Induction and training of trustees

The School recognises the importance of induction and in order to understand the workings of the School and their role within it, new Governors will be given an Induction Pack, including the following documentation, on taking up office:

- AGBIS' publication 'Guidelines for Governors';
- the School's up-to-date Constitution;
- a list of current Governors, committee members and of the School's staff;
- the most recent accounts of the School;
- the most recent inspection report;
- the School's strategic and business plans;
- the School's budget for the relevant financial period;
- the School's Governance Manual and a full list of all the School's policies;
- the Charity Governance Code;
- the Charity Commission publication CC3 'The Essential Trustee';
- the School's key risk assessment documentation;
- the minutes of the last three meetings of the Governors and related papers; the latest School magazine and prospectus;
- dates of forthcoming meetings of the Governing Body and its committees; and
- other additional information/documents as appropriate.

This preliminary information should enable new Governors to understand the overall administration and governance structure of the School and help them to play an active role in its administration.

As part of their induction, each Governor shall observe at least one lesson and undertake a site visit to the School, including meeting with the Principal and the Bursar.

Organisation and management of the governing body

The role of the Governors is to hold ultimate control of and responsibility for the management of the School, including: ensuring the School acts in accordance with the School's Constitution; educating, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils; ensuring compliance with the inspection regime; and managing the School's activities in furtherance of its charitable objects in the context of its [dual] regulation by the Charity Commission and Companies House. To carry out this role, the governors meet as the full Governing Body a minimum of four times a year.

The work of monitoring the school's finances, policies and procedures is carried out by the Finance Committee who meet each half term.

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Development of an estates strategy is delegated to the Estates Committee that meets each half term as part of the Finance and Estates Committee. Informal working groups are set up as needed.

Employment and remuneration policy

All trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid in the year.

Staff remuneration, including senior staff is reviewed and set annually by governors after considering and recommendations from the finance committee. Recommendations are informed by:

- the overall annual budget
- nature of the role and responsibilities
- competitor salaries in the region
- the sector average salary for comparable positions
- trends in pay
- consumer and retail price indices

Teaching staff are paid on an internal scale with progress determined by appropriate performance and experience. Allowance payments are made for extra responsibilities above the contractual norm. In recent years, flexible pay in the academy school sector has affected the ease of recruitment to certain roles and we therefore aim to track significantly above salaries paid in the academy school sector.

Support staff are paid on an internal scale and with reference to local market conditions.

A range of benefits are offered to staff including work place pension contributions, staff fee remission, free parking and refreshments.

Staff are consulted on matters such as staff wellbeing through the staff committee and questionnaires. We have a range of human resource policies to support our charitable and business objectives and to ensure compliance with best practice and regulation.

Strategic report

This report provides context for the financial statements together with an analysis of performance and insight into the school's objectives. It also identifies the key risks and uncertainties the school faces, and what steps it takes to mitigate these.

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GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance

School Roll

The total number of pupils across the School enrolled at the start of the 2022/23 school year was 678 and ended at 701 at the end of July 2023. We continue to offer four form entry in the Senior School (comprising an average 20.5 pupils per form) for entry to Year 7 (age 11 years) in September 2022, however due to the success of our Year 7 cohort being full, we have stopped promoting Year 9 entry (age 13 years) and now only offer places for that year group on an ad-hoc basis. Our Year 13 cohort for 2022/23 was 36 students in September 2022, rising to 38 in July 2023.

School Buildings Environment

The specialist rendering work on the Castle building continued during the 2022/23 academic year as well as ongoing regular planned for and ad-hoc maintenance work across all the School sites. On-going repairs and maintenance to the other school buildings at Chessington Lodge and Glyn House continued. Additionally, the refurbishing of leased office buildings on the first floor at Fitzalan House in Ewell Village as well on the ground floor (of what was previously a charity shop) was completed in time for the space to be used from September 2022 for some Sixth Form classes. Additionally, the admissions, marketing, finance and careers departments moved across from the Senior School site to Fitzalan House ready for September 2022.

During the summer holidays of 2023 these were the following Estates updates; awaiting planning permission to be granted for the refurbishment and expansion of our tennis courts, phase one of the Pledger building refurbishment started and involved Science, Maths, DT and Art. It created another Science lab by repurposing two Maths classrooms. The lease of the top floor of Fitzalan House was acquired a year earlier than planned and the space was repurposed into additional classrooms, office spaces and student study space.

Perhaps the biggest change was the move of Years 1 and 2 from Chessington Lodge up to Glyn House, which left just the Early Years (Nursery and Reception) part of the Prep School at Chessington Lodge. The main building there will, from September 2023 be used for Sixth Form classes.

Exams and Results

Prep Year 6:

We had 43 pupils in Year 6 at the end of July 2023, with 30 of those staying on to Ewell Castle Senior School. Ewell Castle Prep School pupils were not entered for the Key Stage 2 SATs as we have our own assessment system at the Prep School. At the Prep School 70% of Year 6 leavers choose to stay with us and transfer to Ewell Castle Senior School whilst others acquired places at grammar schools, other independent schools, or local state schools. 8 went to other independent schools, 3 to grammar schools, 2 to state secondary schools and 0 unknown destinations.

GCSEs:

August 2023, the grades were once again awarded based on exams taken, as per pre-Covid times. 78.8% of pupils achieved 5 grades or more at grades 9 – 5 and 35.7% of these grades were 9 – 7. 84.2% of pupils achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths GCSE's. An impressive 27.6% pupils achieved 5 or more grade 9-7s and 25% of pupils achieved at least one grade 9.

Top GCSE performers this year were:

Our top performing GCSE pupil this year, achieved 11 Grade 9s and 1 Grade 7. Other top performing pupils also did incredibly well and achieved 9 Grade 9s, another achieved 2 Grade 8s and 1 Grade 7. Another pupil secured 8 Grade 9s, 3 Grade 8s and 1 Grade 7. Another 7 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s and 1 Grade 7 and another 6 Grade 9s, 3 Grade 8s, 2 Grade 7s and an A in Additional Maths. One of the pupils was offered a professional training contract with Arsenal Football Club.

Our Year 11 cohort consisted of 76 pupils in the year group. 46% of our Year 11 pupils chose to stay on at Ewell Castle after their GCSEs, 21% went on to college, 11% went to maintained secondary school sixth forms, 3% went

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on to state grammar schools, 14% went on to other independent school sixth forms and 5% went on to apprenticeships/football contracts.

A-levels:

As with the GCSE Grades, summer 2023 grades were also awarded on the basis of external exams sat during the summer term, and 2023 was another record year for our A-level and BTEC results.

Ewell Castle School Year 13 students achieved the best ever exam results this year with a 100% pass rate and whilst not all of them achieved their first-choice university (this mirrored the national trends), the majority did, and those who didn't were offered places at their second-choice university, none went through Clearing.

35% of all grades were A* - A which is our highest record for A-level and BTEC public examination results. 56% of all grades were A* - B, 79% A* - C, with a 100% pass rate. BTEC results were 83% Distinction Star, all of which means that students achieved an average of 118 UCAS points each.

Year 13 consisted of 35 students in the year group, 86% of them went to university or college, 6% accepted Higher Apprenticeships, 3% took a GAP year and 3% accepted a US tennis scholarship.

Notable Achievements

Our top performing A-level student this year, achieved A*A*A*A*, and is now reading Computer Science at the University of Warwick. In addition, the following students also received exceptional results: Our Head Girl and another student both achieved A*A*A*A*. The former is reading Economics and Management at the University of Bristol and the latter is reading Economics with Industrial Experience at the University of Exeter. Another student achieved A*A*AA and is studying Mathematics and Physics at the University of Warwick. One student who achieved A*A*A is taking a GAP year and will take up a place at a top conservatoire to study Music in September 2024. Our Head Boy was accepted onto a prestigious Higher-Level Apprenticeship to study Engineering with British Airways and one of our top performing tennis scholars is now at Menlo College, California USA, Division 1 on a Tennis Scholarship.

Autumn 2022 ISI Inspection

We received a visit from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in September who conducted a Regulatory Compliance Inspection (RCI) and the good news shared later in the term was that we had passed and are fully compliant.

Highlights of the Prep Autumn Term:

Traditionally the Prep School supports Macmillan Cancer Research by holding a grandparents coffee morning in support of the Cancer Research Fund. This year was no exception, and it was an opportunity for the Early Years children to read poems and sing to their parents and grandparents who enjoyed tea and cakes during the event. Donations made went to Macmillan Cancer Research.

Years 3 and 4 visited Bockett's Farm in November, and the children were dressed head to toe in waterproofs and wellies, prepared for whatever the weather and the farm had to offer them. Especial highlights were visiting the chickens and piglets, and a ride on a very bumpy tracker.

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a trip to The Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch a play about the Cracker family who had fallen on hard times and were going to have to sell the family pet shop and home. Luckily there was a happy ending, because Granny had a shiny tin of chocolates in her handbag, that were actually diamonds, so they didn't sell the pet shop or house after all.

Year 5 enjoyed an interactive trip to The Science Museum in London. Particularly exciting was the Space Exhibition, where they were able to reflect on the technologies used to send a spaceship to outer space.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

National Poetry Day on the 6th of October was marked by our pupils in Years 1-6 writing poems on the theme of 'The Environment'. There were prizes on offer too which included a book of poems, notebooks and pens. Then in November, a selected group of pupils from Years 5 and 6 attended a special writing workshop called 'AIM High Writing Day'. The workshop was run by published author Jenny Valentine and she focussed on creative writing, spoken word games and instant poetry, as well as dialogue, character, plot and editing. The pupils who attended, found it very inspirational.

Year 3 were wowed by The Hobgoblin Theatre group who put on an interactive performance about the Egyptians that included colourful props. The annual Harvest Festival celebration took place in St Mary's Church Ewell and as well as being an opportunity for Prep families to bring along food donations to the church, for local food bank charities, the pupils performed 'Ewell's Got Talent' in front of parents, and it was a mix of Strictly Come Dancing and Britain's Got Talent.

By November, the weather is usually suitably more sombre and the Prep School played their part in remembering those who have died during conflicts around the world, and particularly during the two world wars. The Head Girl and Head Boy of the Prep School lay a poppy wreath at the cemetery on behalf of the Prep School.

Other activities during the autumn term included Student Council meetings and Forest School sessions for all pupils at the Prep School. Forest School is based at the back of Glyn House Garden and through Forest School activities, the children develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. The staff make campfires so marshmallows can be toasted, and lots of fun crafts and activities happen there. Depending on the season, these can include hibernating creatures and nesting birds.

Art and DT continues to be popular and whilst Reception were busy painting plate portraits, Year 1 and 2 coloured in umbrellas and flowers. Year 3 created some Egyptian inspired 3D art, Year 4s drew some Greek Pots, Year 5s designed some intricate Bug Houses and Year 6 focussed on the Mexican Day of the Dead imagery for some 3D art.

Prep Sport

November saw the inaugural Ewell Castle School U9 and U11 Mixed Football Festivals, on the Church Meadow pitches. These were the first of their kind on the local Prep School circuit and were a chance for boys and girls to participate together in a team sport and showcase their skills in a friendly environment. The Prep Table Tennis House competition took place in the autumn term and was not only fun but special in that the idea came from one of the Year 6 Prep pupils.

During the autumn term, the girls took part in netball and for the first time, football training as well as inter-House football games, fixtures and mixed festivals. The U8 netball squad were busy and experienced full 7-a-side netball as well as High 5s and Bee Netball (in both of these, the players get more time with the ball). They trained hard and enjoyed the matches that they played. During their first tournament at Aberdour, they won three out of their six matches. The U9s played matches against Weston Green, Chinthurst and Banstead Prep and at the Aberdour Tournament, they won five out of their six games. The U10s season started well, and they competed against Aberdour, Chinthurst and Oakwood, eventually winning bronze medals at the Aberdour Tournament. The U11s also took part in the triangular against Aberdour and Chinthurst both winning and losing matches there. They ended the season attending the Seaton House Gladman Tournament, which involved ten schools and equipped themselves admirably.

Girl's football is growing at the Prep with many attending the U10/U11 after school football club and although numbers at the U8/U9 football club are lower, the girls are just as enthusiastic.

The boys U8s enjoyed a stellar season and they remained unbeaten throughout their regular fixtures. Teams they competed against included Banstead Prep, Micklefield, Surbiton and Twickenham Prep, the latter who they lost out to in the final of the Surbiton Football Tournament to come second. The U9s enjoyed a mixed season but continued to improve their performance. They competed against Micklefield, Weston Green, Aberdour, Banstead Prep and Chinthurst. The U11s 'A' team remained undefeated throughout their regular fixtures and gave some wonderful performances. They played exceptionally well in the Surbiton Tournament and narrowly lost out to Cranmore in the final, going down 3-1. They played a number of schools this season including Oakwood, Aberdour,

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Chinthurst, Twyford, Trinity and The Hawthorns. They entered the Plate competition but were knocked out by Aldwickbury School on penalties. In their final game of the season the team made it through to the semi-finals of an eight-school tournament at Oakwood School. They eventually won 4-1 to Ewell Cattle and one of our pupils was named player of the tournament by all the visiting coaches. Our 'B' team were not to be so lucky but still had fun and put in some great performances against Surbiton and Banstead during the term. Along with our 'C' and 'D' teams, all our pupils had the opportunity of playing competitive sport this term.

Nursery and Reception wowed their parents in their Nativity production. This year's nativity was 'The Sleepy Shepherd', where the sheep couldn't stand still to be counted and the 'sleepy shepherd' had to wake up to find the baby Jesus. As always, it was a wonderful show, especially considering some of the children had only joined Nursery three months before.

The colourful Years 1 and 2 Nativity production that included lots of singing, took place in St Mary's Church, Ewell, and there was as ever an original retelling of the nativity story that included news readers and camera crew!

Highlights of the Prep Spring Term:

Children's author Josh Lacey visited us to launch our Prep School Book Week and our chosen theme was 'animal adventures' and we focussed on books written by Josh. He read some of his books to our pupils at special assemblies that week during which he discussed the inspiration behind his books and took time to answer pupil questions on the subject of writing books and being a writer. The week also included an Extreme Reader Photo Challenge, a 500-word story competition for our pupils and a dressing up day where pupils and staff could dress up as an animal or a fantastical animal.

Nursery children enjoyed special visitors in the shape of the Animal Magic Petting Zoo who visited and brought a range of exotic (snakes) and more usual animals (guinea pigs) with them for the children to see and touch if they wanted to.

Meanwhile, Years 1 and 2 spent an enjoyable day during STEM Week at the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell. The children used problem-solving skills to work in teams and they took part in an interactive workshop about animals.

During STEM Week, Year 5s watched a science demonstration organised by the Senior School Science Department and Year 4 continued their science work on electricity. There was a science poster competition that week and the theme was 'connections'.

A lovely Heads of School initiative took place and the Head Girl and Head Boy of the Prep and Senior School met to share tips and advice with each other and discussed how each were getting on in their respective parts of the School.

The Prep School was represented by three Year 5 pupils who showed exceptional confidence and oracy skills, at the Public Speaking Competition at Epsom College. The pupils researched and collaborated on the topic (Artificial Intelligence) and its place within education and practised in front of the whole Prep School.

The Music Department have been busy teaching pupils about film music, ukulele playing, keyboard skills, drumming, recorders, singing and much more. The wind ensemble was started, and all Prep pupils were involved in choir lessons, including the Year 6s in Chapel Choir.

Spring term is always an exciting time for our Forest School and the children are encouraged to listen and look for early signs of spring. Activities included using fire steels to light fires, using pallets and tyres to create obstacle courses, repurposing Christmas trees and mud kitchen! The children are taught to look out for migrating toads, newts and frogs as they make their way to ponds to spawn. The children spent some time on UK bird identification practise and even tried making their own nests with varied success, gaining a new appreciation of what little birds can do with just their beaks.

Prep Sport

It was a successful season for the U8s rugby squad who remained unbeaten throughout and there were fixtures against Aberdour, Micklefield and Chinthurst. The U9s fielded an 'A' and a 'B' team and continued to make improvements in technique and fitness. The U10s had a promising season and showed a great deal of potential,

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and their understanding of the game also grew. Fixtures were held against Surbiton Prep, Banstead Prep, Micklefield, Chinthurst and Aberdour. The U11s trained enthusiastically and with endeavour throughout the season and there were some great performances against Banstead Prep and Surbiton Prep.

All Prep boys took part in an increased number of hockey lessons during the second half of the term and Years 5 and 6 were involved in hockey fixtures with Aberdour School. A highlight for Year 5s was visiting Surbiton Hockey Club, to take part in a masterclass run by GB Internationals James Gill and Stuart Rushmere, that was enjoyed by all.

Ewell Castle hosted its first ever U11 Mixed Hockey Festival in mid-March and involved over 90 pupils from 6 schools, that took place at Epsom Sports Club. Results were not recorded at the event because the aim was to encourage inclusion and encouragement, instead awards were handed out for Sportsmanship and Players of the Festival.

The U10/11 Girls enjoyed a busy term of hockey and fixtures included Aberdour and Cumnor House. There were also U11 hockey festivals at Weston Green and Banstead which the girls enjoyed and there were some excellent matches. U8/9 Girls' Hockey was also busy and included a Triangular with Banstead and Chinthurst, although our team came away empty handed.

Girls's rugby is becoming increasingly popular, and the pupils had the opportunity to experience both tag rugby and U9-11 controlled contact training and games. Overall, it has been a very successful term of sport for girls' hockey and rugby, and they had the chance to experience these sports in mixed training and games, consequently developing their strength and skills as a team.

Highlights of the Prep Summer Term:

Reception children enjoyed a day at Bocketts Farm in May, where they had the opportunity to stroke some of the small animals and feed the goats and cows and later play in the special farm playground. For many of the children, it will have been their first opportunity to see some of these animals and watching their happy and often surprised faces proved what a successful trip it was.

Four specially chosen children from Years 1 and 2 attended the A.I.M. High writing workshop, which was about deepening children's learning experience for those who show a particular talent in English, and to work beyond their current level. They explored traditional rhythms, recited them and later created their own rhythms based on traditional ones. They were led by author Michael De Souza, who encouraged the children to be adventurous with their choice of language and creativity.

Year 3 visited the Living Rainforest in Berkshire in March following some weeks learning about rainforests and the animals that live in them. The children immersed themselves in a rainforest environment and experienced a glimpse of the unique fauna and flora of a rainforest.

Year 3 also visited Hampton Court Palace and their visit began in the famous Tudor kitchens. They learnt about the food that was eaten at the time and how it was cooked and eaten. The children thought it was unfair that the workers only had three choices on their menu whereas the Court had more than 20. They visited the King's Apartments and the Great Hall, and they spent some time playing Tudor board games which were similar to draughts.

Years 3 and 4 took part in an in-house half-day workshop linked to their science curriculum. Fizz Pop Science was interactive, entertaining and truly captured the imagination of the pupils, including how rainbows are created, how light travels and how it is used in everyday life.

Year 5s visited The Isle of Wight at the beginning of May for a three-day whirlwind adventure that took in the Isle of Wight Zoo near Sandown, beaches and the fun-filled Kingswood Activity Centre. Pupils were able to take part in a range of activities and sports including archery and abseiling. The trip ended with a football match and disco on the last evening before returning on the ferry and coach back to Ewell.

Year 6 had their own adventure at the end of the summer term, when they spent five days in Devon at Nethercott House, the base for *Farms for City Children*. Some of the focus of the trip was about teaching the children the

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process from farm to fork and to better understand where some of our food comes from, and at what cost is this to the farmer and to consumers as well as to the animals themselves.

The children were up early every day and gave the animals their breakfast, they enjoyed being in the fresh air and there were plenty of opportunities where the children were able to improve their teambuilding, leadership, ownership and agency skills. The trip gave them opportunities to problem-solve, often in creative ways and it was a marvellous five days for pupils and staff alike.

The Junior UKMT Maths Challenge took place in the summer term and involved 18 pupils in Years 5 and 6 and 41 pupils from Years 7 and 8 competing. In Years 5 and 6 we obtained 2 golds, 3 silvers, 7 bronzes and 6 participations. This was a very commendable result.

As part of Activities Week, Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic Circus Workshop from the company Juggling Jake. The aim was to help pupils with their co-ordination, collaboration and perseverance skills as well as resilience, which they did by learning a number of circus skills such as tight wire, juggling, diabolo, stilts, devil sticks etc.

Art and Design Technology are popular subjects as ever, and the children's work often reflects aspects of the curriculum they are studying or places they have visited. Year 3 created some junk models with a rainforest theme, Year 4 produced some Chang Dynasty block printing and Terracotta Army artwork, Year 5 produced some observational drawings in water colour including ornate doors and archways as well as space themed art. Year 6s produced self-portraits.

Prep Sport

It was a great season for cricket both single sex and mixed, playing 48 fixtures in total against other schools and winning 26 of these.

Year 3 pupils have had fixtures against Banstead Prep, Aberdour, Kingswood House and Weston Green and the Year 4s had a successful season and triumphed in most of their games.

Colts Cricket involves Years 5 and 6 pupils, and they also enjoyed a successful season with improvements in bowling and batting techniques throughout the season.

Girls' cricket continues to be popular and the U10s and U11s displayed a good awareness of the rules and are now playing with increased tactical awareness. Fixtures for this age group were against Banstead Prep and Cumnor House and the U9s and U8s played mostly in mixed games in addition to playing the girls of Cumnor House.

During April, some of our Prep pupils took part in the IAPS National Table Tennis Finals. They did exceptionally well, progressing through to the group stages and into the knockout phases. Out of 127 participants, our pupils made the last 32 players, with one pupil getting to the last 16.

June sees the annual and hotly anticipated sports days. Nursery and Reception as well as Years 1 and 2 Sports Day events took place in the grounds of the Prep School at Glyn House on the 23rd of June, and as usual the weather was sunny and dry. The children participate in a carousel of sporting activities gaining points for their Houses based on what they had learnt in PE lessons during the year. They spent two minutes at each station, before moving on to the next challenge. During the second round, the children participated in individual sprint races including the relay. Arundel House were the overall winners.

Years 3-6 held their Sports Day at the Harrier Centre in Ewell, where there is an all-weather running track, along with high-jump, long-jump and ball throw facilities. The event concluded with the closely fought relay races and Arundel House were the overall winners of the event.

The Year concluded with our Prize Giving Celebration on the 28th of June, at The Rose Theatre, Kingston Upon Thames. The event included pupil performances including the choir. Staff joined parents in this celebration of school life and the achievements of our pupils after another busy academic year.

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Highlights of the Senior School Autumn Term:

There was a sense of optimism at the start of the term, as collectively the School felt as though it had come through the worst of Covid, ready to embrace all the opportunities for learning and enrichment as well as challenge and fun.

The start of term started with a number of induction and team building events for the pupils, including the Year 7 trip to Chessington World of Adventures, the Year 9 Bushcraft overnight camping trip and the Sixth Form outdoor teambuilding day, all of which helped new pupils get to know each other and members of staff.

The European Day of Languages was marked by a Bake-Off cake competition and a Languages Quiz for pupils in years 10-13. Money raised from the cake sale went to the School's chosen charities for that year.

The annual History Battlefields Trip in November included visits to the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge and Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel as well as the Thiepval Memorial, created in memory of the 72,337 soldiers that went missing in the Somme. Another History trip, this time in December, was for the Year 11 historians and involved visits to Whitechapel in East London, to embark on a *Jack the Ripper* walk, which focussed on the grinding poverty that the inhabitants of that part of London endured. The tour follows surviving buildings from that period, including the public bath houses, church, graveyard and houses and streets from that period. The GCSE History course focusses on three angles, poverty and deprivation, the problems with policing and poverty itself.

The Year 11 Classics pupils also embarked on a trip during the term, visiting The British Museum to view a number of artefacts including the celebrated Elgin Marbles, the Bassae frieze, the Temple of Athena Nike as well as Roman armour and artefacts.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award programme is always popular, and we offer Bronze, Silver and Gold Award programmes, all run in-house by staff. Having previously had a full week's training in June, the new Year 10s faced the assessed weekend in the Surrey Hills including the triple challenge of Leith Hill, Ranmore Common and Box Hill. Their navigation skills were spot on, and they passed their camp administration skills, tested at camp Bolderhurst. The second day on the Epsom Downs can also be challenging in terms of map reading, but they did well, and all earned their Bronze Award the hard way.

Things get a little tougher when it comes to the Silver Expedition, which takes place in the New Forest, which is fairly flat, and this in itself can be challenging. During WW2, the area was used as a base for training aircrew and Lancasters and Mustangs were based there, with evidence still on the ground.

We celebrated National Poetry Day and our Year 8s focussed on poet Amanda Gorman's 'Earthrise' poem. Our pupils were asked to either write a poem or song or take a photograph about *The Environment* with lots of prizes on offer for the most creative entries.

Our most accomplished senior Mathematicians in Years 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge along with one Year 11 pupil. The pupils obtained three Gold awards, two Silver awards and 11 Bronze awards. Following this, the three Gold award winners were invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo event, and they were awarded certificates of Merit or Participation.

October half-term normally sees at least one exciting School trip take place and this year was no exception, with a number of pupils from Years 10 to 13 embarking on a cultural trip to the West Coast of the USA. Locations included San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and Los Angeles.

Remembrance Day is always marked by the School, and during this sombre occasion, we take time to remember those Ewellians who gave their lives in service during WW2, as well as everyone who has perished during times of conflict. Poppy wreaths were laid at the memorial in St Mary's Church graveyard.

The Drama Department organise a number of theatre visits each year and in the autumn term they took the GCSE drama pupils to a Frantic Assembly production of Othello. It was a modern reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tale of jealousy, love and tragedy. The Year 7s were treated to something altogether lighter in tone, when they

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attended a performance of The Lion King musical in London. Some of the pupils said it made them laugh and cry and it was genuinely awesome.

The Music Department put on the annual School musical production, which this year was The Wizz, staged at The Epsom Playhouse over two evenings and one matinee performance. The show, a re-working of The Wizard of Oz, involved more than 30 pupils from Years 7-13 and gave many of them their first (post-Covid) opportunity of performing on a stage in front of an audience. Pupils were also involved behind the scenes in the technical side of the lighting and sound production. There were some wonderful reviews and the pupils involved loved the experience and confidence it gave them.

In terms of music lessons, there were 15 Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) offering a variety of instrumental tuition and music theory lessons. These lessons include cello and oboe along with guitar, piano, drums etc. The pupil Function Band and Brass Band continue to rehearse weekly and perform whenever the occasion presents itself, including during *Ewell Yule* in Ewell Village. Chapel Choir rehearse weekly and perform at School events such as the Carol Concert and Prize Giving.

The Charitable Works Committee organised a number of fundraising cake sales during the term and monies raised went to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Cardiac Risk in the Young, The Donkey Charity and the Sunnysbank Trust. The Committee is led by members of the Sixth Form.

Mindfulness continues at the School with courses for pupils in Years 7-12 as well as short courses for parents with the aim of fulfilling potential and pursuing own goals, as well as improving concentration and focus in the classroom and in exams, experiencing greater wellbeing and developing emotional resilience. The School has also launched a Pupil Resilience Programme as well as a Girls Empowerment Programme, working alongside specialist organisation *Voice at the Table* on this.

How sustainable are we as a School? During the autumn term a lot of investigative work was undertaken to find out the answer to this question and the reason for doing this is our aim for the School to reduce its environmental impact and become net zero. The Student Council was involved in this project and continues to be so.

Many activities have House points attached to them, which tends to make them more competitive and exciting for the pupils. The Bake Off in European Languages Day was a House Competition, as was National Poetry Day's poetry writing competition, Christmas Singing Competition and Girls' Football. At the end of term, Bodiam were placed 4th with 204 points, Carisbrooke 3rd with 229 points, Arundel 2nd with 243 points and Dover House 1st with 366 points.

Pupils in the More Able and Talented (MAT) Club were encouraged to consider and put into action Higher Order Thinking approaches and later they were encouraged to have meaningful discussions about mental health, within the safe and respectful environment of the club. All Scholars are expected to attend the MAT Club, but it is also open to other pupils who are interested in stretching themselves academically. One of our Art Scholars produced an abstract piece in acrylic called The Way of the World, which currently hangs in the new Fitzalan House Sixth Form learning hub in the village.

Senior School Sport

Autumn Term sports that were played were Rugby for the boys for the whole term, years 7 to 13. The girls did football for the first half term and then rugby for the second half term as well as some netball. This is due to the improving and advancing sports of football and rugby for women not quite yet being the main stays of all schools in the area, so we are in a mix and match few years with the trend currently as of today being that football is the dominant force in this term for female students in Surrey and London Boroughs.

The rugby highlight of the term was winning the Jonny Wilkinson cup in Rendcomb whilst on tour with the senior 1st XV boys and this is the first time that we have ever won the trophy. It is a small school's tournament, and we may be getting too large for that event! There were four boys who played football for the youth sides of Premiership clubs, including Fulham FC, Arsenal FC and also England U16.

We received a visit from the ISI Inspectors at the end of September, who arrived to conduct a Regulatory Compliance Inspection (RCI) followed by confirmation that we had passed and were fully compliant.

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Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) organised successful and sold-out events including the BBQ and Fireworks Display, the Winter Village Experience, Christmas wreath making and Christmas Fair, along with tremendously popular New2U uniform sales.

Highlights of the Senior School Spring Term:

The start of the Spring Term saw the House Football competition which was won by Dover House and Carisbrooke in Second place. This was followed by the annual Pancake Day Race, which sees pupils from across the year groups taking part in a relay race that involves having to run between two points in the Sports Hall wearing a chef's hat and apron and flipping a pancake in a frying pan and not dropping it. They then hand the hat, apron and frying pan over to the next member of their team, so they can continue in the relay. It's always a very competitive event but does involve some clearing up of pancake crumbs afterwards!

In early January, some Year 12 students went on a Science trip to CERN including a visit to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva and discover some of the work they do.

CERN is where the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is located. It is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator and consists of a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way. 2,660 scientific, technical and administrative staff work at CERN, and their job is to answer questions relating to the creation of universe since the big bang. The trip was very successful and is sure to be repeated.

World Book Day is celebrated at the Senior School and pupils and staff are encouraged to dress up as characters from particular books and or according to a book theme allocated to them and their House. Our Year 12 student poet in residence wrote a poem and there were prizes for the best dressed pupils.

The Dragons' Den Enterprise Club is a hugely popular club, attended by many of the lower school pupils in particular and the finals take place just before February half-term. The club is great for pupils with an entrepreneurial spirit but for anyone really. Through the club, they learn the following skills: business ideas and creative thinking, financial skills, presentation skills, public speaking skills, and how to bounce back from a set-back. The winner was especially thrilled to have secured first place this time, as he was a runner up in the final in the previous year.

The Business Department arranged for Year 10 pupils studying Business GCSE to visit Chelsea Football Club and see business in action. They had a have a tour of their facilities and talk to some of their staff about some of the business aspects of the club. The pupils visited the press room and trophy room, walked through the players' tunnel, and found out about their revenue streams and how 43% alone comes from broadcasting alone.

During Enterprise Week, 8BillionIdeas came in to talk about public speaking. The event was split into three sessions on, planning the speech, writing the speech and speaking in front of others. Pupils had the opportunity to put into practise what they had learnt by delivering their own speeches.

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Geographers completed two fieldwork days that included visiting the River Tillingbourne (Year 10) where the pupils explored downstream changes, and how velocity, gradient and bedload changes and the Year 11s visited Stratford in East London to carry out some market research. This included data analysis, conclusion and evaluation.

In early March, a small number of pupils studying Business BTEC and Design and Technology, visited the Museum of Brands in West London to see how graphic designs and packaging had changed over the years and in what ways. Later in the month, the History Department took Year 8s on a visit to the Tudor warship The Mary Rose, at the Royal Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth. The ship sank in the Solent over 478 years ago and was discovered and finally raised in 1982. The ship is in a unique purpose-built museum that helps ensure that the surviving timbers are stabilised, and further destruction is minimised. The visit included a workshop trying to work out why the ship sank, was it bad weather, overloading, poor communications, gunfire, or perhaps a little of all of these reasons.

The Ski trip to Saalbach Hinterglemm in Austria is always one of the most over-subscribed trips on the School calendar, despite having to take a coach to get there and back. Each day starts early with breakfast followed by

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a coach from the hotel to the ski slopes. The slopes are perfect for beginners as well as more accomplished skiers and there is always lots to do in the evenings such as ice skating, swimming and bowling. The trip photos showed delighted, waving pupils at the top of the slopes, against a backdrop of pristine snow, beautiful forest landscapes and blue skies.

Towards the end of the Spring Term the whole School achieved NACE accreditation, in recognition of the successful work undertaken over the last three years at the Prep and Senior School in supporting challenge for all our pupils, not just the more able. We were positively assessed on celebrating our pupils' achievements and encouraging leadership within the pupil body, as well as congratulated on our strong ethos of self-evaluation and continuous self-improvement.

A lovely Heads of School initiative took place and the Head Girl and Head Boy of the Prep and Senior School met to share tips and advice with each other and discussed how each were getting on in their respective parts of the School.

Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians attended Maths Fest 2023, held at The Royal Institution in London. The event was hosted by Matt Parker, a 'stand-up' mathematician who often features on the popular Numberphile YouTube channel. The day comprised of a series of talks and lectures by mathematicians specialising in various fields, from neuroimaging and climate dynamics to time travel and juggling. The festival also featured a 'Maths Village' which held a myriad of puzzles, prizes and books for students to enjoy.

STEM Week is celebrated each March and activities are organised mostly for the Years 7-9 in the following subject classes, Science, DT, Maths and Computing. Maths focussed on and learnt more about Pi and worked on the area of circles and the circumference of a circle, as well as formulas to work it out.

Mindfulness sessions continued, especially with the Year 7s and focussed on breathing and seating techniques to help pupils when they face anxiety or challenging situations.

The Girls' Empowerment Project welcomed a range of speakers to talk to girls and non-binary pupils about a range of topics, provide them with tips and advice and encourage them to become strong, empowered individuals. Some of the girls said they found the talks by the external speakers very helpful and inspiring.

Sustainability is becoming more of a buzz word at the School and having had a biodiversity report completed for the School, the pupil 'Wild Bunch' (eco club) researched the viability of different recommendations to try and increase biodiversity of the School grounds, such as introducing insect hotels and re-wilding areas of the School grounds. To aid pupils in this research, a group of Year 12 students attended Surrey Wildlife Trust's 'Youth for Action' conference at Royal Holloway University, where students participated in workshops including preparing an area of grassland for rewilding into a meadow, pond dipping to investigate aquatic ecosystems etc.

The Music Department continued with their Lunchtime Live mini concert series continued each week and included performances from our function band, brass band, as well as piano and guitar pieces from individual pupils. Towards the end of term, Chapel Choir and the music scholars held a concert at St Mary's Church, Ewell that included a performance of Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*.

Our Sixth Form Model United Nations debate took place during the Spring Term, with a debate motion on whether revenge should be legislated. As always, Years 12 and 13 take part in the debates and the advance preparation is as much a part of MUN as the debates and presentations themselves.

The annual Sixth Form charity Curry Night was organised by a superb Charitable Works Committee (CWC) with all monies raised going to the Lighthouse Pedagogy Trust, who run a local children's home. The event was well attended by students and staff, included hilarious quizzes, *Family Fortunes* and *The Price Is Right* and over £800 was raised for charity.

The Sixth Form Careers Carousel took place on the 10th of March and was an opportunity for students to listen to guest speakers from a range of different industries and levels of experience. The event is timed, so speakers have just 10 minutes to talk with each group of students about their career and answer any questions they may have. One of the most emphasised messages from the speakers was the importance of soft skills such as interpersonal skills. Whilst employers want certain levels of academic qualifications, they also prioritise individuals with excellent

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communication and collaboration skills as well as work experience or volunteering. Another key take-away was the importance of job satisfaction and following one's passions and interests.

Sixth Form Enrichment includes the *Enterprise* project over four weeks. Each Sixth Form group is given £30 to work with, and from this they need to bid for a product to sell, then 'buy' their pitch from which to sell their product. The products include hot dogs, pizza, doughnuts etc and the pitch sites include the Budgell atrium, outside the Pledger building, alongside the croquet lawn etc. With items and locations secured, the students moved onto making the promotional product adverts, to be no more than 2 minutes in length. The adverts are then shown at all the Year Group Assemblies in the following weeks, to drum up support for those products. On the morning of the Enterprise Day, the whole Senior School gets into the spirit of the occasion and there is much excitement during the half hour when products are sold. Following this, the groups have to prepare and present PowerPoint presentations and present these at Sixth Form Enrichment. They include expenditures, the rationale behind selecting that product, an explanation about the profit or loss made etc. These are judged by a panel of staff and the winners announced. The winning team keep their profit, all the other teams give their profit to a selected charity.

The Sixth Form organised an environmental fashion show, where they looked at one of the largest problems society faces, climate change, and how we can all make a positive impact by investigating the re-use of products. One aspect they investigated was microplastics and how the number of disposable plastic bags has decreased enormously in recent years. Working in form groups, the challenge was to design and make a ball dress out of plastic bags for a member of the group to wear during a 'runway' show that included music and make up. Each 'model' also had to deliver a speech on what they wanted to do to help the environment. Each group was judged but the eventual winners were 6DIS.

Girls' Sport update

This has been Ewell Castle's biggest and most successful netball season. We had 10 teams play 92 fixtures and every girl in the School took part, with two teams in each year group and a 50%-win ratio – the highest of the three main School sports this winter/spring season. Given that there is just one sports hall netball court and five members of staff who run the teams, this is a considerable achievement.

The U12 squad were super keen and full of energy and notable wins were against Epsom College on a frozen afternoon in January and another freezing North Surrey League win over Wallington High. It was great seeing them learn and work as a team and we look forward to seeing them playing again next year.

This season the U13A squad have displayed fantastic teamwork and the highest goal scorer achieved 111 goals in 14 matches which is outstanding. The U13B squad also performed very well and had a high win ratio, they were determined players who were happy to play in any position to help the team out. The U14s had a great season and made excellent progress in their skills and teamwork. Highlights were wins against Wimbledon High, Hurstpierpoint and Boxhill, where fitness and determination ensured victory in the final quarter of the match. Congratulations to the squad who were dedicated and trained hard all season.

The U15As have grown massively in confidence and developed resilience, determination, teamwork and a real drive to win as the season progressed. The captain led from the front and scored over 50 goals, but all the girls worked hard and improved as the season went on. The U15B team played just one game, which they won 10-8, so they had a 100%-win ratio, which was the best ratio in the entire School!

The U15 1st Team were the most talented senior team the School has ever had. They gelled as a group and showed great energy and drive each game. Particular highlights included playing in the North Surrey League at Sutton High School, but there were so many great matches and each member of the squad contributed in some way. The 2nd Team demonstrated great sportsmanship and energy and whilst their results may not have matched the 1st Team's, the team worked well together and developed their cooperation and netball skills as the matches progressed.

Girls' football, rugby and cricket are all now offered at the School. The Autumn term saw a busy round of football fixtures, along with some one-off matches for rugby (not many girls' teams to play against) and the recently launched girls' cricket programme which has replaced rounders. Summer athletics continues as it always has done, culminating with a highly successful House sports day competition.

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Boys Sport update

The spring term is a football term at Ewell Castle School and we fielded a record number of teams this year. For the first time we had an Under 12A, B and C team alongside the other year groups, who all have A and B teams. The seniors also saw a record return in fixtures with the regular ability to field a 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI throughout this term. Ewell Castle sport is certainly continuing to reach new heights and we once again thank all the pupils, parents, guardians and staff for their contribution to this achievement.

The U16 A team over a very short season showed they were a formidable team. These group of boys contained three outstanding players who play for professional clubs and two of which play for England and Wales respectively. Although this team only played two games and won them both, it was clearly evident that they are going places within the game. The majority of this team also played in the School first team and this team has been one of the standout teams of the season for football. One of the highlights was a 7-1 thrashing of Dunnotar! The U15A team also played well and ran close to the U16A Team and 1st Team as the team performing at the top of their game during the season.

Having played ten games, this group of boys played the most football of all the pupils in the School and danced rings around the poor weather and waterlogged pitches and been able to play more sport than most. On many occasions they have danced around their opponents and a 3-1 win against Christ's Hospital was a great performance.

Although football is the main game of the term at Ewell Castle, we were also able to reinstate hockey at the Castle thanks to our partnership with Epsom Hockey Club. The pitch at Old Schools Lane is a fantastic facility and playing under floodlights is something that all the pupils in the Under 14 mixed team relished. We played four matches and with the help of some strong club hockey players, won each of the games including one where we had to play with no goalkeeper for half a match! Wins against Emanuel, Glyn and Broomwood Hall showed that hockey is alive and well at the Castle. The season was a challenge in terms of the weather, but having played over 70 matches this season, we were pleased with what our pupils achieved. Onwards and upwards now to the summer term with cricket, tennis and athletics.

Tennis Academy

The Tennis Academy pushed hard to achieve the Number 1 position in the UK in one of the age groups. Having achieved a ranking of #5 at the Nationals at Nottingham in the 18U category, it was the turn of the 15U Boys age group who started their quest back in the summer of 2022. Playing their way through the group stages was relatively straightforward. The knockout stages, however, were a little more challenging. First up was a very strong Reed's team, now becoming a local derby. It was a really close match, but the strong Ewell Castle team fought their way valiantly to win 4-2 and become the Surrey Champions.

The next level was the regionals and first off was an easy draw against a team who had made it through a weaker pool in Sussex. The boys came through with a 12-0 win to set up a regional final against another big academy in the UK, Culford School. We knew this would be a close match and we were not wrong. It was a series of ferocious rubbers where some of the best players in the UK fought for a place in the National Finals. Yet again, the team spirit that binds these players every time they pull Ewell Castle kit on proved too much for the opposition. A fantastic win against a strong team established them as Southeast Champions and secure their place in the Nationals to be held at Bolton.

The time passed quickly, and the team worked hard with their preparations. The team put in a herculean effort to secure the fifth place in the team as the Number 4 singles player. The National Championships were fought out between four teams from the four regions of the UK. We were the Number 2 seeds and were set to meet the Number 1 seeds, Millfield School, in the final. The script played out perfectly and we did indeed meet Millfield in the finals. It was a nail-biting match where we went into the doubles at 2-2. It could not have been closer and, having lost the one doubles match, we went into the second doubles on a tie break to pull the score to a draw. It was not to be this year and in spite of a huge effort on the part of the team we finished #2 nationally. The fact that the boys were so disappointed reflects the ambition of this academy and the expectation they place on their very young shoulders. To be ranked second in the UK is an incredible achievement and all those early morning starts in every weather show their commitment.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The winter proved to be very rewarding on an individual level. Several of our players achieved an international ranking, one of whom was also selected for an Invitation double at the AELTC, Wimbledon. This was an incredible achievement as these young players are pitched against some of the best in the world. The most impressive of these was one of our Year 13 players who secured himself ATP World ranking points in the Men's game at the age of 17 years: an unbelievable achievement!

Success doesn't just stop at the senior players, as one of our younger players came runner up in a National Tour doubles tournament and recently won a Grade 3 in the 12U Regional Tour and is also ranked in the top 10 in the country for his age group. Other players won a grade 3 11U and a grade 3 12U Regional Tour.

One of our tennis scholars was Middlesex County Champion this year, another was Surrey County Champion this year, another won the 18U and Men's Grade 3 at Christmas and another won the Super Series. Following the Easter break, the competition starts with a vengeance, and we have many titles to defend. The hard work continues, as they prepare to work their way to the Nationals. Success comes with an incredible amount of hard work and commitment.

Highlights of the Senior School Summer Term:

The summer term is always the busiest of the year and along with the internal and external exams there are always so many trips, events and of course prize giving.

The Year 7 trip to Paris included visits to the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland Paris which just may have been the highlight of the trip for many, despite some light rain showers.

Year 8 Enterprise involved pupils working in groups to come up with some crafts that they could sell to other pupils during breaktime. There were many enterprise skills involved here including teamwork, creativity and sales skills.

Year 12s enjoyed a sunny Geography trip to Dorset, as part of the A-level syllabus. They visited the stunning Durdle Door, Swanage and carried out some investigations on the erosion of the Jurassic coastline.

At Ewell Castle School we are proud to celebrate Pride Month, which we condense into Pride Week. We are a school that believes in family, and we want to provide a safe environment where staff and pupils can celebrate who they are. There were various events during the week including an assembly, a Bake-off competition, flags, posters and rainbow stickers as well as a fabulously colourful 'rainbow' picnic lunch provided by our caterers.

Another event to mark and celebrate was the King's coronation, and our caterers and site team arranged for a celebratory afternoon tea to be enjoyed outside in 'street party' style trestle tables and appropriately themed decorations.

In April, our Year 12 students enjoyed finding out about different options and pathways at the UCAS Discover Exhibition in Farnborough. With over 100 universities and apprenticeship providers in attendance, students were able to access the latest advice and information on higher education and career choices.

Later in June, the Careers Department organised for the Sixth Form to visit The University of Surrey in Guildford which included a tour of their facilities and Q&A session with some of their students onto what it is like studying there and life as a student away from home. Feedback from our own students was that the trip provided them with great insights into what it's like studying at university.

The weekly Sixth Form Enrichment sessions are usually fun and organised to ensure everyone takes part. They included sessions on how to apply for graduate jobs, replica interview quizzes on Kahoot, help starting to prepare for the UCAS application forms and designing a university student room by creating design/mood boards and considering all the key items that students might need during their time away from home.

Our Year 10 Design and Technology pupils were busy in a project to design, build and decorate a child's chair for a real-life client. The clients were all pupils in Year 1 at our Prep School. They carried out research that included the client's needs, functionality and design of the chair as well as comfort. To decorate the chairs, the pupils used laser cutters to accurately cut shapes and writing from materials such as MDF. When completed and the chairs presented to the 'clients', the Year 10 pupils compared this against their original briefs, to determine how successful they had been. Overall, there was wonderfully positive feedback to the Year 10 pupils, from staff, Year 1 pupils and their parents.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

All of Year 9 embarked on a Duke of Edinburgh Training Week towards the end of June, which involved being taken off timetable for a comprehensive week of training including first aid, camp craft skills such as putting up and taking down a tent, camp cooking and map reading/orienteering skills. Towards the end of the week, they set off for Epsom Downs for some map reading practice and cooked and camped overnight in the School grounds. The School Duke of Edinburgh Manager was delighted by their progress and remarked that they were ready for the real expedition which they would undertake later in September.

This year Student Council had an energetic student President (who was in Year 13). During the year they undertook three main projects that included logistics, catering and teaching. Pupil meetings were bi-weekly and their intervention to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) led to six new wooden benches being bought and delivered to the Senior School for pupils to use in the outdoor spaces. New water stations replaced the far easier for pupils to refill their water bottles from the water stations.

The School participated in the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge, with 18 pupils from Years 5 and 6 and 41 pupils from Years 7 and 8 competing. In Years 5 and 6 we obtained 2 Golds, 3 Silvers, 7 Bronzes and 6 participations. In Year 7 we achieved 6 Silvers, 4 Bronzes and 11 participations. In Year 8 we obtained 5 Golds, 9 Silvers, 3 Bronzes and 4 participations.

The More Able and Talented (MAT) Club (this club is open to all scholars and all pupils) focused on the Torrence Test, which measures creativity via verbal and figural which ties in with the World Economic Forum's Top 10 Skills of 2025. Later in the term the club focussed on public speaking, and a number of alumni and others from different industries and with different experience presented to our pupils on a range of topics. Academic mentoring sessions focussed on problem solving.

The Drama production this year was *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, by Bertolt Brecht, which is a parable about Hitler's rise to power in the 1920s and 1930s. The character of Arturo Ui is based both on Al Capone and Adolf Hitler and may have come about after Brecht's visit to America in 1935 and his fascination with gangster movies. The production was staged in an intimate cabaret style and included pupils from across year groups.

Summer Sport

During the Easter holidays, the Physical Education Department organised their first Cricket Tour to Dubai for girls and boys which included a training session at the Emirates' Sevens Training facility on the day of arrival, to help everyone acclimatise to the UAE heat. There were plenty of opportunities for shopping and cultural activities including visiting Kite Beach, a local mall, Burj Khalifa, playing football, swimming and visiting the Atlantis Water Park on Palm Jumeirah, but the focus of the trip was cricket, and every day at least one of the School teams played a game, including playing at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, which is an international stadium.

The early season in April and May was unfortunate with the British weather claiming a huge number of fixtures and some teams not playing a competitive match until mid-May. We also had the King's Coronation, so for the first time in many years, the season didn't really get up and running until just before the half-term break. One team that did manage to beat the weather was the School's Cricket 1st Team (boys), that completed all of its fixtures. A win against Whitgift's 2nd Team and an invite to go back and play their 1st Team for the first time ever was a pleasure to witness. Our 1st Team is arguably the strongest it has ever been led by two players who are county age group U18 players, we have won all our matches. One scored an impressive 265 runs at an average of 88.5 and the other has been in the wickets averaging just six runs per wicket! In the younger year groups, we have regularly had ten teams playing on a Saturday. Whilst playing at six different home venues and co-ordinating pupils, parents, opposition and staff has been a challenge; it is amazing that over 100 pupils played weekly Saturday cricket matches here at the Castle! Our Under 15 Boys' team also started to put together some strong performances so the future of the 1st Team here is in good hands, with several boys performing strongly with bat and ball.

Our girls continue to push the boundaries and develop their skills at a time when women's cricket is fast becoming one of the most popular sports in the world. The U14 girls have a large squad and with only 20 girls in the year group, the appetite and skill for cricket with these girls is fantastic to see.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We fielded an U13 and U14 /15 Girls' Cricket Team. The U14/15s had a great season and played some wonderful cricket with particularly good wins over Lingfield College and Harrodian. Notable batting performances have been pupils score 44 against Broomwood Hall and 26 against Harrodian. So many players have contributed to the field and have made this a fun and successful season. Thanks to all the parents for the strong support from the sidelines!

The athletics season is always a short one in school sports as the number of events seems to reduce year on year. Schools struggle to find facilities and space in a packed summer diary. This is certainly something that would be good to see improved in all school. Despite the lack of competitions, we attended the annual District Sports and had some strong performances. Four pupils all qualified for the Central Surrey Team, and one went on to be selected for Surrey in the England Schools Competition. I believe this is the first time a Ewell Castle pupil has reached this level since 1997! The summer term also sees the culmination of the sporting year at the School with our annual Sports Day and Sports Awards. These are both great events and the latter is a culmination of a busy and successful year of sport at the School, celebrated with pupils, parents and coaches.

Sports Day was held at the Harrier Centre on Poole Road in Ewell and track and field events included javelin, shot put and discuss along with Long Jump, High Jump (a new School record was achieved jointly by two pupils in Year 10) and numerous track races. Carisbrooke House was 1st overall, Bodium 2nd, Dover House 3rd and Arundel House 4th.

There are various Ewellian alumni events during the summer term, which are managing to involve former pupils and staff (current and former) across a range of activities and from different decades. The Golf Day at Kingswood Golf and Country Club takes place in April, when the weather is often unpredictable, and although some early drizzle meant the group photo was taken indoors, the delay ensured that when the first four stepped onto the fairways, the weather had improved and stayed dry the rest of the day. We had a record 26 Ewellians taking part in the golf this year, with others joining the group either for lunch and/or dinner, even if they did not wish to/could not play golf. The champion and runner up both scored 37 points, but the runner up was beaten on countback.

Towards the end of May, the 5-Aside Football event (now in its second year) took place at Tolworth Goals football club. Five 5-aside teams took part and were kept busy and slightly out of puff, during the one-hour round-robin competition. Attendee numbers were greater this year and the event is certainly a lively and fun get-together for former pupils.

The final Ewellian event of the academic year was the Summer Reunion at The Castle. During a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon, current Year 12 student Prefects (who attended to help with tours of the School) enjoyed an afternoon tea together with our former pupils, and they spoke to the older guests about what it was like attending school here in the 1950s and 1960s. Croquet and boules were also on offer as entertainment, but mostly guests come to reminisce with old school friends and catch up on news.

Our Annual Prize Giving Celebration took place on the 28th of June at The Rose Theatre in Kingston Upon Thames. Pupils from throughout the Senior School were awarded prizes in particular subjects and or for their contribution to School life. There were music and choir performances and guest speakers were the founders of the UK based App for teen health and wellbeing, The Luna App. They shared the stage and delivered an inspiring speech about entrepreneurship and determination.

The event includes the Art and Photography Exhibition, where GCSE and A-level artwork and photography is mounted onto free-standing display boards. It was a colourful and engaging exhibition and was available for guests to view and enjoy as they were served refreshments and canapes in the bar area before the ceremony.

Ewell Castle School Tennis Academy

This was to be an important year for the Tennis Academy. Having won Surrey LTA Tennis School of the Year, and reached the National Finals of the 15U Boys, narrowly losing to Millfield, we knew we had to train hard to reach the Finals of the 18U at Nottingham. One of our Year 13 students went from strength to strength, achieving his first World ATP points so we knew we had one of the strongest school teams in the UK.

Before getting to Nottingham, there were many other competitions to compete for across the age groups, unlike many of the other top tennis schools, we do not even have our own tennis courts good enough to play on, let alone indoor facilities.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

At the end of the season we ended up #2nd nationally in the 18U Boys, #2nd nationally in the 15U Boys. In the Surrey Schools Festival we were 12U winners Boys and 13U winners Boys as well as 18U Girls. In the Surrey League we were 15U Boys Surrey League Champions and 18U Boys Surrey League Champions. We were also winners of the Rootham Shield and ISTA 15U Boys Finalists (National) and ISTA 13U Boys Finalists (National). The following are the highlights of the season.

Surrey Schools' Festival

Every year we have the Surrey Schools' Festival where every school in Surrey puts forward a pair for each age group. This is a doubles competition where the pair need to work together to win. It was a fantastic year for Ewell Castle coming away as winners in the 12U Boys, the 13U Boys, and the 18U Girls. This was a brilliant haul of titles for a day's work where we dominated many of the age groups.

LTA Schools' Tennis 13U Boys

With excellent preparation by our incredible coach, who always demands that they put their heart and soul on the line, we were ready for the schools' competition season. The Years 7 & 8 team are an outstanding group of boys and we were able to put out an A and B team, both of whom powered their way through their qualifying boxes to reach the County Finals.

LTA Schools' Tennis 15U Boys

Years 9 & 10 had a similar route. They battered their way past Kingsdale School, Trinity, Whitgift and Wilson's to reach the County Finals against a very strong Reed's team. The Final will be played in September. Our players will have to be at their very best to come out on top.

Surrey League

Along the way, all the scholars were involved in the Surrey League which involved three pairs, only playing doubles. Having accidentally entered Years 7 & 8 into the 15U League instead of the 13U League, we had a tough time getting through to the Finals Day at St. George's. Fighting our way through ACS Cobham, Hampton Boys and Trinity in some close fought matches, the Years 7 & 8 team, joined our 18U team to play the other schools who had reached the semi-finals. First, it was the turn of the 18U team. The three pairs managed to emerge as Surrey League Champions beating KCS in the Final. Not a moment was lost as the older boys accepted their medals and ran to support the Years 7 & 8s who had managed to beat Hampton Boys in the semis to then face a huge Wilson's side who had the World Number 1 playing for them. I still do not know how they did it, but the boys beat a bigger and more powerful team to come away as 15U Surrey League Champions. This was an extraordinary achievement by an amazing set of players.

Rootham Shield

Before travelling to Nottingham for the 18U National Championships, we had the final of the Rootham Shield to play and knew it would be a really tough match to play against a very strong Reed's team. We put in a strong team of but it was as difficult as we anticipated and a very close fought match. We came away with the victory to retain the Shield but our Number 1 player in Year 13 picked up an injury which didn't bode well for the Nationals.

18U LTA Nationals Glanville Cup

The Glanville Cup (Nottingham) is the most prestigious competition in Schools Tennis with over 400 teams across the whole of the UK competing. The team came through the quarters, and the semis to reach the finals without dropping a set. Pretty remarkable when you are playing the top teams in the UK. Fighting his singles valiantly, our Year 13 number #1 player struggled with his injury and eventually had to pull out. This was a huge blow to the team to lose their Number 1 player. The other members rose to the occasion but, this time, it was not to be. It was really disappointing to be so close to holding the title of National Champions as the players had trained so hard to reach this final. We are now #2 nationally in the 18U and the 15U, which is incredible for any school. But we have ambition and high expectations, and our goal is to be the National Champions. As we move forward to the Nationals with the 15U and the 13U where we have topped our groups in both age groups we know we have to work incredibly hard to secure that title.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Independent Schools Tennis Association ISTA

With Nottingham finished, the team returned south to Eton for ISTA, where over a hundred independent schools compete over four days at Eton College. This is where each school enters either one or two pairs in each age category. We managed to reach the finals of two age groups. First to reach the final was the 15U Boys. They were a smooth pair cruising their way through some tough opposition beating Mill Hill, Abingdon and Millfield 2 along the way. The final drew them against Millfield 1 and although they battled hard, they succumbed to very good opposition to come runners up. Next was the turn of the 13U Boys. We had two pairs in this age group. The second pair battled hard against one of the pairs that eventually reached the semifinal against our first pair. Sweeping away Trinity and KGS, our boys faced the UCS pair they both knew well from Nationals. The standard of tennis was incredible for that age group, but the UCS pair were a very well-established pair, playing together at the highest level around the circuit. They secured the title, but our pair played extremely well and were worthy runners up for the independent nationals.

Developments and Maintenance

In common with other independent schools, the Governors have invested substantial sums into its buildings in recent years and have a continuing programme of refurbishment, development and investment to maintain excellent teaching facilities for our pupils. Major projects included:

- Further development of Fitzalan House to create additional classrooms and private study space for the 6th Form
- Phases 3 and 4 of the render repairs including major repairs to the roof on the Castle Building
- Phase 1 of refurbishment of the Pledger Building to create additional science labs
- Relocation of Years 1 and 2 to the Glyn House Prep site

Future Plans

We intend to continue our current strategies of maintaining the School's position in a competitive market by investing to provide high quality education for our pupils. Achieving a high standard of academic results is a constant aim whilst maintaining the breadth and depth of the education provided.

The Principal and senior staff continue to review the curriculum to ensure that the educational qualifications remain appropriate for our pupils' development.

Our future plans are financed primarily from fee income and from our reserves. We need to maintain an equitable balance ensuring our current pupils benefit whilst, at the same time, ensuring a sound infrastructure and financial base are preserved for the next generation of pupils in the same way as our current pupils benefit today from the investment made in the past.

Review of Bursary Policies and Financial Assistance

We view our bursary and scholarship awards as important in widening access to the education our School provides. We will therefore be reviewing our Bursary and Scholarship Awards policies to ensure that able children can accept offers of places at our School through the availability of means-tested fee assistance.

Estates Strategy

Maintaining and, where necessary, developing the fabric and facilities of the School are central to our strategy. Our plans for 2023/24 are primarily focused on ongoing repairs to the render at the Castle and we have a programme of planned maintenance and investment with the upgrading of the outdated facilities in the Pledger Building and development of the Tennis Courts a priority.

Teachers' Pensions

We are continuing to review the schools' membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) in light of the employer contribution increase of 44% from 16.4% to 23.6% in September 2019. With the option of phased withdrawal now available, we will be instructing a consultant to assist the school in preparing a business case to evaluate the schools continued membership.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The results of the charity are set out on page 33.

We regularly review the finances, budgets and spend against budget together as part of the effective stewardship of the school. Although the school budgeted for a small surplus due to the continued impact of COVID-19, our decision to ensure that fees were set at a competitive level, and the continued popularity of the school, the school roll has grown. This combination of factors has led to the surplus reported of £112,094.

We have carried out projections for the forthcoming 12 months and beyond and are satisfied that the schools cashflows can be managed carefully and that the school will be able to manage its cash resources and will continue to operate as a going concern.

Fundraising Activities and other Income Generation

Former members of staff and former pupils also represent a growing body of parties offering valued support and structure to the School community through the Old Ewellians.

The Ewellians Association Committee held their three formal meetings during the school year, on 21st September 2022, 24th February 2023 and 4th May 2023. Unfortunately, the Netball Match had to be cancelled due to lack of alumni players but the annual Golf Day at Kingswood Golf & Country Club which was well attended was held on 21st April 2023 (27 played golf, 30 stayed for lunch and 27 for dinner). The annual Cricket Match was held at Ewell Cricket Club on 5th July 2023 and, although we had to rely on some current parents to join the Ewellians cricket team to ensure the event could go ahead, it was a great afternoon for re-establishing friendships and the connections with the School. It was the second year we had organised the 5-Aside Football Evening, and numbers increased to shy of 30 compared to around 23 in 2022. The summer reunion at the Castle was held on Saturday 24th June 2023 with over 70 alumni attending, aged 18 to over 80 and for some alumni, it was their first visit back to the school in over 50 years.

Regular monthly or bi-monthly e bulletins were emailed to over 1,300 alumni who are on the alumni database, and these covered School news, information and updates on alumni, invitations to forthcoming events and general lifestyle pieces.

We have 1,444 valid alumni email addresses for those aged 16 and above, and of those, 443 have online profiles on their alumni website. We are pleased to celebrate the continued links with our alumni in terms of generous gifts, work placements, attendance at our annual Sixth Form Careers Carousel and charity sponsorship for our older pupils.

Ewell Castle School also benefits from the generosity of a small but thriving PTA (Parent, Teacher Association) whose close support and contribution in respect of developments and activities we greatly appreciate and gladly acknowledge.

Investment Policy and performance

Investment activities are managed in line with the requirements of the Trustee Act 2000. There are no restrictions on the company's powers of investment. Our policy continues to be to place part of any retained funds in higher-yielding deposit accounts when they are available.

Risk Management

The governors are responsible for the overseeing of the risks faced by the School but detailed considerations of risk are delegated to the senior management of the school.

A formal review of our risk management processes is undertaken on an annual basis with assistance from the Principal and the Bursar however the school's activities are kept under constant review, particularly with regard to any major risks that may arise from time to time as well as the systems and procedures established to manage them. We monitor the effectiveness of the system of internal controls and other viable means, including insurance cover where appropriate, by which those risks already identified can be mitigated.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The principle risks identified:

- failure of Governance;
- failure to deliver educational standards;
- failure to safeguard pupil welfare;
- regulatory noncompliance
- impact of economic climate;
- major fraud or mismanagement;
- major catastrophe eg. fire;
- adverse action by the freeholder; and
- loss of charitable status

The key controls used are:

- formal agendas and minutes for all committee activity;
- induction procedures for new governors; terms of reference & responsibilities for committees, in addition to job descriptions for staff of the school ;
- comprehensive planning including strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- professional advice;
- established organisational structures and lines of reporting;
- clear authorisation and approval levels for all transactions;
- appropriate levels of free reserves;
- formal written policies including comprehensive child protection measures and other health & safety matters to ISI regulatory standards;
- vetting procedures for all staff as required by DCSF and ISI regulation, through the DBS checks;
- meeting requirements of Charity Commission.

As well as the risks and controls identified above, we have carefully assessed the risks presented by the introduction of VAT on school fees, the falling birth rate, loss of Business Rates Relief, introduction of Corporation Tax and its impact on:

- Pupil Numbers
- Fees
- Staffing
- Capital Expenditure

Through the risk management processes established for the School, we were satisfied that the major risks identified were and continue to be adequately mitigated where necessary, however it is recognised that no system can give an absolute assurance against major risks.

Reserves

The charity reviews its free reserves (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets and restricted funds) to assess whether there is:

- An adequate level of working capital;
- A financial buffer to cover risks to which the charity is exposed;
- Funds to enable the School to continue to invest to enhance the educational facilities it provides.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL

GOVERNORS REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In 2022-23, the School continued to invest in its educational facilities and free reserves at 31 August 2023 amount to £0.0m (2022 - £0.6m).

We consider that given the strength of the charity's balance sheet, the stable cash flow from student rolls, the ongoing popularity of our School, and the available banking facility that can be called upon if need arises, that the free reserve is sufficient.

We recognise that the level of reserves fluctuates during periods of investment in the School estate and the arrangements with our bank are in place to provide an adequate 'safety net' should it be required. The Board will continue to review the reserves policy on an annual basis.

Financial Results

The principal source of income is fees accounting for 92% of the School's income. The only endowment held by the foundation is a restricted fund for a prize.

The financial statements show net incoming resources for the year on School activities of £112,094 (2022 £578,499).

At 31 August 2023 the group had unrestricted reserves of £9,484,950 (2022 £9,376,632) of which £10,321,122 (2022 £9,573,864) is held in tangible fixed assets and £500,000 (2022 £500,000) is held as designated funds for refurbishment of Fitzalan House. Other restricted reserves are held of £4,715 (2022 £939).

As a charity the parents of our pupils have the assurance that all the income of the School must be applied for educational purposes. As an educational charity we enjoy tax exemption on our educational activities and on our investment income and gains provided these are applied for our charitable aims. As a Charity we are also entitled to an 80% reduction on our business rates on the property we occupy for our charitable purposes. However, as an educational charity, we are unable to reclaim VAT input tax on our costs as we are exempt for VAT purposes. We also pay tax as an employer through the national insurance contributions we make.

The financial benefits we receive from these tax exemptions are all applied for educational purposes and indirectly help us to maintain our bursary and scholarships programme. In addition to the very substantial benefits our School brings to our pupils, the local community and society through the education we offer, our bursary programme create a social asset without cost to the Exchequer.

Provision of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and;
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Governors' report, including the strategic report, was approved by the Board of Governors.



Governor

Date: 24/1/24

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EWELL CASTLE
SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ewell Castle School ('the company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed,

**EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EWELL CASTLE
SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given the trustees' annual report (incorporating the Strategic Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report (incorporating the Strategic Report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL
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SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

EWELL CASTLE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EWELL CASTLE
SCHOOL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP.

17 May 2024

James Saunders (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

6th Floor
9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

Ewell Castle School

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including the income and expenditure statement) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted / Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOME FROM:					
Charitable Activities					
School fees	3	10,843,460	-	10,843,460	10,043,121
Other educational income	4	777,533	5,118	782,651	711,191
Investments					
Investment income	5	37,352	-	37,352	1,689
Voluntary sources					
Grants and donations	8	20,241	-	20,241	33,843
Total income and endowments		11,778,586	5,118	11,783,704	10,789,844
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Costs of raising funds					
Interest and other costs		48,463	-	48,463	28,012
Charitable activities					
Education	7	11,624,004	1,342	11,625,346	10,183,333
Total expenditure	7	11,672,467	1,342	11,673,809	10,211,345
Net operating income/(expenditure)		106,119	3,776	109,895	578,499
Other Profit or Loss on sale of assets/property		2,199	-	2,199	-
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	11	108,318	3,776	112,094	578,499
Transfer between funds					
Revaluation gain		-	-	-	857,734
Net movement in funds		108,318	3,776	112,094	1,536,233
Fund balances brought forward		9,378,632	500,939	9,879,571	8,341,338
Fund balances carried forward	18,19	9,486,950	504,715	9,991,665	9,877,571

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Ewell Castle School

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	<u>10,321,122</u>	<u>9,573,864</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	13	5,801	6,028
Debtors	14	<u>788,900</u>	<u>884,713</u>
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,785,175</u>	<u>4,159,286</u>
		5,559,676	4,830,027
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(4,390,686)</u>	<u>(3,438,788)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,168,990</u>	<u>1,391,239</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		11,480,112	10,965,103
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>(1,600,447)</u>	<u>(1,087,532)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>9,889,665</u>	<u>9,877,571</u>
FUNDS			
Restricted funds	18	504,716	500,939
Unrestricted funds – general	18	<u>8,627,216</u>	<u>8,418,098</u>
Revaluation reserve	18	<u>957,734</u>	<u>957,734</u>
		<u>9,889,665</u>	<u>9,877,571</u>

by the Board of Governors on 24/1/24 and signed on their behalf by:

of these financial statements.

Ewell Castle School

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 August 2023

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities	21	1,773,842	973,588
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Bank interest received		37,362	1,888
Bank interest paid		(48,483)	(28,012)
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(1,084,864)	(832,498)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(1,095,975)	(858,822)
Financing:			
Loans repaid		(81,878)	(73,428)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(61,878)	(73,428)
Increase/(decrease) in cash		625,889	41,338
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,159,286	4,117,850
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		4,785,175	4,159,286

Ewell Castle School

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Ewell Castle School is a company limited by guarantee with registered number 0788782, incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. Its registered office is Church Street, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AW.

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charitable Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the Charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards in the United Kingdom. The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out below.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the School will continue in operational existence for 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

As such the School can expect to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due in the period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts. However, there can be no certainty in relation to these matters.

On this basis the Governors have concluded that the School is a going concern. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result from the School not being able to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

1.3 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee, the guarantors at the present time being the Governors, to the extent of £1 each.

1.4 FEES RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

Fees receivable and charges for services and use of premises are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided. Fees receivable are stated after deducting allowances, scholarships and other remissions granted by the school.

1.5 DONATIONS AND FUND ACCOUNTING

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Donations received for the general purposes of the school are included as unrestricted funds. Donations restricted by the wishes of the donor or the terms of an appeal are taken to restricted funds. Donations required to be retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes are accounted for as endowments – permanent or expendable according to the nature of the restriction.

1.6 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is allocated to expense headings, which aggregate all costs relating to the category either on a direct cost basis, or apportioned according to time spent. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

All costs associated with the provision of education are allocated to Charitable Expenditure. Only the costs directly associated with, or incurred solely in, Raising Funds are allocated to this category. For example, the costs of kitchen and domestic staff who are employed on a short term basis during the school holidays are allocated to the Cost of Raising Funds whereas the costs of the permanent staff are allocated to Charitable Expenditure because they would have to be paid in any event. Likewise, only premises costs that are incurred because of, or to support, the letting activities are allocated to the Costs of Raising Funds.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, and all other costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.7 TEACHING COSTS

Supplies of games equipment, books, stationery and sundry materials are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

1.8 FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

All fixed assets are used in direct furtherance of the school's objectives. Fixed assets are included in these financial statements at their original cost less depreciation and accumulated impairment losses provided to date.

Assets that cost less than £500 are not capitalised and are written off in the year of purchase.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the costs less estimated residual value of each asset, by equal annual instalments, over their expected useful lives which are considered to be:

Freehold buildings	- 2% per annum
Leasehold improvements	- Pre 2002 - over original lease term. Post 2002 - 2% per annum
Fixtures and fittings	- 15% per annum
Vehicles	- 25% per annum
Computers	- 25% per annum

1.9 STOCKS

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Ewell Castle School

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

for the year ended 31 August 2023

1.10 PENSIONS

Full-time and part-time teaching staff employed under a contract of service are eligible to contribute to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS). The TPS, a statutory, contributory, final salary scheme is administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills.

Costs include normal and supplementary contributions. The regular cost is the normal contribution, expressed as a percentage of salary of a teacher newly entering service, which would defray the cost of benefits payable in respect of that service. Variations from the regular pension cost are met by a supplementary contribution. This occurs if, as a result of the actuarial investigation, it is found that the accumulated liabilities for benefits to past and present teachers are not fully covered by normal contributions to be paid in the future and by the fund built up from past contributions. The normal and supplementary contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year.

1.11 LEASES AND HIRE PURCHASE CONTRACTS

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities evenly over the period of the lease.

1.12 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 14, 15 and 16 for the debtor and creditor notes.

1.15 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation as afforded by Section 505 ICTA 1988.

1.16 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense.

2 KEY ESTIMATES & JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the Council is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The following judgements and estimates are considered by the trustees to have most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Useful economic lives

The annual depreciation charge for property, plant and equipment is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and note 1.8 for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.

Recoverable value of fee debtors

The company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of trade and other debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. See note 14 for the net carrying amount of the debtors and associated impairment provision.

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The following judgements and estimates are considered by the trustees to have most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

3 FEE INCOME

The School's activities are carried out within the UK.
The school's fee income comprised:

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross fees	12,019,484	10,883,512
Less: Scholarships and bursaries	(1,076,024)	(840,381)
	<u>10,943,460</u>	<u>10,043,121</u>

4 OTHER EDUCATIONAL INCOME

	2023 £	2022 £
Other Income	<u>777,533</u>	<u>711,191</u>

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	<u>37,352</u>	<u>1,669</u>

6 DONATIONS AND GRANTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	<u>20,241</u>	<u>33,843</u>

7 EXPENDITURE

(a) Charitable expenditure

	Staff costs (note 8) £	Other £	Depreciation £	Total 2023 £
Teaching	5,963,940	1,374,138	-	7,338,078
Welfare	-	191,725	-	191,725
Premises and Estates	280,870	2,083,741	-	2,364,711
Administration	1,207,014	164,707	337,806	1,709,327
Finance Costs	-	48,483	-	48,483
Governance	-	21,505	-	21,505
Total Charitable Expenditure	<u>7,451,824</u>	<u>3,884,279</u>	<u>337,806</u>	<u>11,673,809</u>
Total Expended	<u>7,451,824</u>	<u>3,884,279</u>	<u>337,806</u>	<u>11,673,809</u>

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2023

(a) Charitable expenditure (Continued)	Staff costs (note 8) £	Other £	Depreciation £	Total 2022 £
Teaching	5,695,083	1,295,068	-	6,990,129
Welfare	-	157,710	-	157,710
Premises and Estates	245,905	1,380,876	-	1,626,781
Administration	1,021,700	88,037	290,278	1,380,013
Finance	-	28,012	-	28,012
Governance	-	18,700	-	18,700
Total Charitable Expenditure	6,962,688	2,958,401	290,278	10,211,345
Total Expended	6,962,688	2,958,401	290,278	10,211,345

(b) Other Governance Costs Include:	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration	-	-
- Audit Fees	16,445	15,850
- Accountancy Fees	3,136	2,850

(c) Administration Costs	£	£
Salaries	1,152,538	848,339
Staff Training	54,476	42,808
Bad debts	1,188	(28,318)
Depreciation	337,608	280,278
Legal and Professional Fees	162,178	97,355
Loan Interest	48,483	28,012
	1,757,790	1,408,026

8 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	6,657,932	5,334,597
Social security costs	897,049	541,800
Other pension costs	1,041,289	883,215
Other staff costs	155,884	102,958
	7,451,924	6,962,668

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching staff	96	96
Domestic staff	13	10
Administrative staff	75	67
	183	172

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

8 STAFF COSTS (Continued)

The number of staff whose emoluments amounted to over £80,000 or more in the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£80,000 - £70,000	6	1
£70,001 - £90,000	4	2
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-
	11	4

Pension contributions for the year amounted to £ 173,998 (2022: £74,815) for the above employees.

Key Management Personnel

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, which are defined as the Principal, the Bursar, the Head of Preparatory School, the Deputy Head of Preparatory School, the Deputy Heads & Vice Principals of Senior School is as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate compensation	853,432	671,421

9 GOVERNORS' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no Governors' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2023 nor for the year ended 31 August 2022.

10 PENSIONS

The School participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('the TPS') for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £948,974 (2022: £983,215). £92,315 amount has also been into a Standard Life Pension for other staff. At the year end £112,053 (2022: £104,369) in relation to TPS and £11,556 (2022: £10,051) in relation to the Standard Life Pension Scheme was accrued in respect of contributions.

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and The Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2020 and the Valuation Report, which was published in October 2023.

Following the McCloud judgement, the remedy proposed that when benefits become payable, eligible members can select to receive them from either the reformed or legacy schemes for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. The actuaries have assumed that members are likely to choose the option that provides them with the greater benefits, and in preparing the 2020 valuation have valued the 'greater value' benefits for groups of relevant members.

The valuation confirmed that the employer contribution rate for the TPS would increase from 23.6% to 28.6% from 1 April 2024. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 28.68%.

11 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	337,606	290,275
Loan interest	48,463	28,012

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2023

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property £	Leasehold Property improvements £	Fixtures & Fittings £	IT Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost:						
At 1 September 2022	2,376,678	9,882,371	1,152,436	833,458	158,361	14,303,302
Additions	44,723	910,677	41,342	88,122	-	1,084,864
Disposals	-	(282,673)	(478,088)	-	(77,475)	(838,236)
At 31 August 2023	2,421,401	10,310,375	715,690	1,021,578	80,886	14,549,930
Depreciation:						
At 1 September 2022	43,844	2,708,131	1,040,755	798,879	141,829	4,729,438
Charge for year	47,538	187,705	38,284	72,100	10,979	337,606
Disposals	-	(282,673)	(478,088)	-	(77,475)	(838,236)
At 31 August 2023	91,382	2,591,163	601,951	868,879	75,333	4,228,808
Net book value:						
At 31 August 2023	2,330,019	7,719,212	113,739	152,599	5,553	10,321,122
At 1 September 2022	2,332,834	6,976,240	111,681	136,577	16,532	9,573,864

A valuation of Glyn House was complete on 30 April 2022, this was performed by McWhirter Locke who are a RICS Regulated Chartered Property and Building Surveyor. The historic cost of the property was £2,109,243 and was revalued to £2,360,000.

13 STOCK

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	5,601	6,028
	<u>5,601</u>	<u>6,028</u>

14 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees and extras	177,088	203,580
Less provision for doubtful debts	(177,088)	(177,929)
Other debtors	24,187	18,368
Prepayments and accrued income	744,713	620,694
	<u>768,900</u>	<u>864,713</u>

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

15 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	755,619	58,087
Trade creditors	489,303	301,887
Taxation and social security costs	137,033	140,891
Fee Deposits	41,260	27,194
Fees in advance	1,383,206	1,130,334
Other creditors	824,750	789,582
Accruals	759,525	401,838
	4,390,686	2,848,013
Deferred income:	2023 £	2022 £
Brought forwards	1,130,334	980,906
Released in year	(1,130,334)	(980,906)
Received in year	1,383,206	1,130,334
	1,383,206	1,130,334
Carried forwards	1,383,206	1,130,334

Deferred income relates to schools fees received in advance for the following term.

16 CREDITORS DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Amounts falling due after more than one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loan	-	751,210
Provisions	883,322	336,322
School fee deposits	607,125	590,775
	1,500,447	1,678,307
Movement on loans	2023 £	2022 £
In one year or less	755,619	58,087
Between one and two years	-	751,210
	755,619	809,297

The long-term loans are secured by fixed charges over the freehold property and leasehold interest in Ewell Castle. The net book value of which at 31 August 2023 was £10,049,231 (2022: £9,308,073).

17 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments at amortised cost	24,187	44,019
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	2,114,828	1,520,601

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2023

18 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	At 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds:						
General reserve	8,418,898	11,778,588	(11,672,488)	-	2,199	8,527,215
Revaluation reserve	957,734	-	-	-	-	957,734
Restricted funds:						
Other	939	-	-	-	-	939
Fitzalan House renovation	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Sammy Mhiza Fund	-	5,118	(1,342)	-	-	3,776
Total restricted	500,939	5,118	(1,342)	-	-	504,715
Total funds	8,877,571	11,783,704	(11,673,808)	-	2,199	8,889,885

	At 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 August 2022 £
Unrestricted funds:						
General reserve	7,840,389	10,789,844	(10,211,345)	-	-	8,418,898
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	957,734	957,734
Restricted funds:						
Other	939	-	-	-	-	939
Fitzalan House renovation	500,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
Total restricted	500,939	-	-	-	-	500,939
Total funds	8,341,338	10,789,844	(10,211,345)	-	957,734	8,877,571

Restricted funds

The Governors are of the opinion that the funds designated for Fitzalan House have now been fully utilised as part of the ongoing refurbishment and maintenance of these facilities.

The remaining other restricted funds relates to amounts restricted for award giving.

Ewell Castle School

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 August 2023

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	10,321,122	-	10,321,122
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,168,990	-	1,168,990
Long term liabilities	(1,500,447)	-	(1,600,447)
Total net assets	9,989,665	-	9,989,665
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	9,573,864	-	9,573,864
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,391,239	-	1,391,239
Long term liabilities	(1,087,532)	-	(1,087,532)
Total net assets	9,877,571	-	9,877,571

20 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 August 2023, the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
Due within one year	295,589	228,645
Due between two and five years	1,081,590	847,619
Due after more than five years	840,000	1,050,000
	2,217,189	2,126,264

21 NOTES TO THE CASHFLOW STATEMENT

	2023 £	2022 £
Reconciliation of operating result to net cash inflow from operating activities		
Net movement in funds	112,094	1,538,233
Depreciation	337,806	290,276
Bank interest received	(37,352)	(1,688)
Interest payable	48,483	28,012
Revaluation on property	-	(855,714)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	1,416,491	404,727
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(104,187)	(327,344)
(Increase)/Decrease in stocks	427	(815)
	1,773,542	973,588

