



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL



At Beeston, necessity has not been so much the mother of invention as the inspiration for creative explosion. Such has it been for many parts of this extraordinary term, with staff and children together finding new ways to experience and explore. Given that one of our two ISI 'measurements by outcome' is the personal development of children, the Michaelmas term at Beeston has been a feast of this, in so many unexpected ways. Now that it has finished, the urge to ruminate on what has passed is strong, but I shall spare you this, in favour of a glancing look at some of the more recent undertakings, beginning with fulsome thanks to parents for their consistent support, clearly illustrated by the Link Christmas tree, the office, the staffroom strewn with presents. Thank you all!

NATIVITY



The children and staff worked incredibly hard on ***The Inn Crowd***, with songs and lines learnt perfectly. Every idea presented to them ('how do you feel about delivering your lines up in the tree, angels?!') was taken up, and can now be treasured forever - on USB sticks, delivered with popcorn and chocolate raisins as part of charming family watching 'packs', on Monday afternoon.

While nothing can truly replace the warm glow of pride you feel at watching little ones before you in their costumes, the combined efforts of Mr Lloyd-Peck's multiple media skills, Mrs Casey's musical urgings and the Pre-Prep team's unflagging patience, led to a performance which is an utter delight, and testament to staff, parents (thank you for the costumes!) and children working in harmony.

PRE-PREP CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Forest School provided a backdrop for Friday's party in the woods. Kicking off with a dash around to find candy canes, hidden by some mischievous elves, Father Christmas



then had to find his reindeer hidden amongst the trees with only the sounds of jingle bells to guide him. Face-painting and whittling sticks to make decorations followed, with



the children toasting marshmallows and sipping hot apple juice around the fire. A fitting end to a fabulous term!

SWIMMING

The Pre-Prep have had a spectacular term of swimming, with lots of progression from all of the children, made possible by Mr and Mrs Farnell, who kindly allowed us to use their family pool for the younger children to continue their swimming lessons – and Mrs Caswell too, of course!



PRE-PREP PRIZE GIVING

We *did* miss parents at prize-giving, but it went very smoothly anyway, with the formal acknowledging of progress and much emphasis on the values we aim for: friendship, curiosity, kindness, manners and resilience as much as handwriting, French or drama. Here are



Tristram M (both parents are OBs, by the way) with the Manners Prize and **Hattie M**, who scooped (as it were!) the Headmaster's Cup, just two of the winners, listed below:

Prize	Winner	Prize	Winner
Academic Merits	<i>Caitlin Farnell</i>	Team work	<i>Reuben Hawes</i>
Citizenship Merits	<i>Hattie Mace</i>	Manners	<i>Tristram Marston</i>
Friendship	<i>Trixie Beck</i>	Progress	<i>Joshua Farnell</i>
Sharing	<i>Alice Mutimer</i>	Commitment	<i>Florence Applin</i>
Resilience	<i>Caspar Quirke</i>	Curiosity	<i>Daniel Ashling</i>
Sport R	<i>Flora Baily</i>	RULER prize	<i>Hugo Caswell</i>
Sport 1	<i>Rupert Gleave</i>	Forest School Prize	<i>Alice Mutimer</i>
Sport 2	<i>Rosabella Wong</i>	Tutor's prize R	<i>Filipe Goncalves Kewell</i>
Performing Arts R	<i>Filipe Goncalves Kewell</i>	Tutor's prize 1	<i>Caitlin Farnell</i>
Performing Arts 1	<i>Florence Allsopp-Grint</i>	Tutor's prize 2	<i>Ben Freakley</i>
Performing Arts 2	<i>Beatrix Lloyd-Peck</i>	Making Us Smile	<i>Constance Steel</i>
Art R	<i>Flora Baily</i>	Bravery	<i>Florence Hume</i>
Art 1	<i>Ellie Baker</i>	Swimming Prize	<i>Robin Barwick</i>
Art 2	<i>Ben Freakley</i>	Spice Reading Cup	<i>Leo Lloyd-Peck</i>

French R	<i>Isobel Marston</i>	Listening	<i>Emily Papakonstantinou</i>
French 1	<i>Lucy Farnell</i>	Head Master's Cup	<i>Hattie Mace</i>
French 2	<i>Hattie Mace</i>		
Handwriting	<i>Rafferty Hawes</i>		

VICTORIAN DAY

Despite Covid, the Year 4s were able to attend a Victorian Christmas experience at Gressenhall Museum. They travelled back in time to relive the roles and responsibilities



of those children then... Well, less mine shafts and cotton mills and more Christmas decorations, peg dolls and tasty candy canes. In fact, they all had a go at cleaning and folding



sheets, cleaning the worktops and floors and laying the table with exact positioning, order and distance, so a spot of formality which is not quite represented in Mr Day's jolly crew!



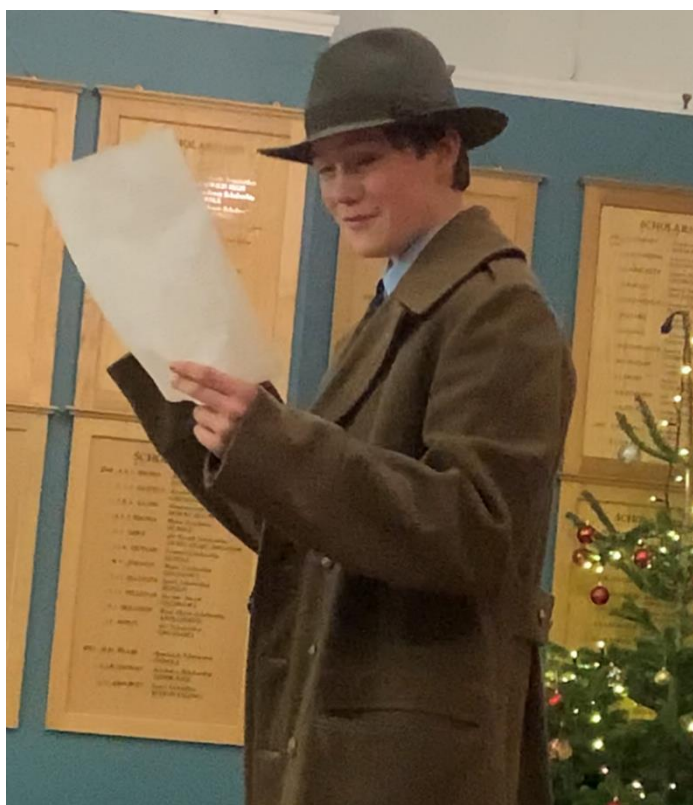
Pie 'the pauper' gave the children an insight into how oakum was used and how dangerous it was for those making it. Finally, there was the melodrama, dancing and the children creating freeze frames of their favourite fairy tales.

BOARDING



After a long term, the boarders finished in fine style. On Sunday, they set to making fourteen separate gingerbread houses in pods and pairs, whilst Mrs Raison and Mrs Large ran a craft activity to make miniature Santa hats. The link piano was commandeered to make a gingerbread village of exquisite Alpine beauty, only to be devoured after the boarders Christmas party on Tuesday night! As always, this went well, with Mrs Caswell, Miss Newby, Miss Tyler and Miss Thomas organising a raft of games in the hall. A rousing chorus of carols followed and a supper with a retrospective boarding video from this term and then a visit from Father Christmas himself.





Slotted between these events were the ever-popular Dorm Decs competition and the Dorm Speeches on Monday. Lawn-mower-sized cardboard confections and a Santa tracker (complete with an illuminated map of the world) were among the offerings. The Speeches took us from junior declamation, of the highest quality, from **Flora B** and **Charlie D**, to the stentorian tones of Churchill (aka **Rex S**), pictured here delivering a priceless skit on 'we shall fight them on the beaches...' – that's how serious the dorm rivalry is!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



After delicious Christmas lunches – again, pods and bubbles being navigated by the tireless catering crew, the children raised their obligatory £1 for ***Save the Children*** on Christmas Jumper Day. As you scroll through these some what incomplete photos (busy school lunchtime activities prevail!) we might reflect on the traceability of some of this fine wool wear?!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN









WINTER CONCERT

The Winter Concert, handily set on the same day – yet more filming by Mr L-P! – saw Mrs Casey at her absolute creative best, delivering performances from the children that gave no

quarter to the Covid-drawbacks. A festive rocket to propel us properly into the Christmas season!



One of my final, and most arduous, tasks of the year was to judge the remarkably extensive Year 5 Christmas decorations, which saw much quasi-mathematical cutting of snowflakes and building of paper chains.



The result was really too close to call, but I fear a certain birthday helped to swing it! Here are Year 5 on a much more serious endeavour for Mr King, gathering, showing and talking



about items from around the world – an inventive way of cementing locational knowledge – so essential for his young geographers. Please be prepared for a good bit more on this score, so perhaps you could idly scan shelves and cupboards in preparation for further world activities – providing nothing controversial like the Elgin Marbles come to light! More anon!

And, on the subject of travel, Nurse Alison has noted an enormous increase in the number of trips, slips and foot pain amongst the children. **Therefore, we would like to ask that all school shoes have either laces, buckles or velcro fastening to ensure proper support.** Laces win every time in my view – manual dexterity and all that!

So, coming to the end of a fantastic term, in time honoured way, we celebrated our winners, with the eternal cry that those who miss out have the next term to try again. Competition is always close, and varied, so pride, at least, can be shared, in the prep school prize giving.

PREP PRIZE GIVING

Effort Prizes

8	Kit Pallister	5	Isabelle Baker
7	Polly Harrison	4	Ilona MacNicol
6	Flavia Boyce	3	Henry Hume

Gladstone Tankard: *Polly Harrison*

Academic Merit Prizes in Year Groups

8	Romilly Hammond	5	Trixie Brun
7	Tabitha Gurney	4	Emilia Farnell
6	Charlie Denham	3	Harry Marsh

The Riley Smith Bowl: *Romilly Hammond***Batt Cup (progress) Winner: *Oliver Gleave*****Runner up: *Flora Campbell*****Supermerit Awards**

8	Jamie Philippi	5	Alson Lau
7	Tabitha Gurney	4	Susannah Pallister
6	Rose Baily	3	Rose Davies

Mentor Awards

8DG	India Barber	5HL	Noah Buchan
8NW	Paige Brun	5AD	Bonnie Freakley
8RC	Soraya Fleming	5SW	Molly Baily
7JB	Xander Cary	4JD	Wilfred Beck / Athena Barber
7RM	Libby Whitworth	3HD	Willa Goodley
6RF	Flora Barratt		
6PK	Oliver Gleave		
6AT	William Carter		

Citizenship Merit Awards

8	Arabella Williams	5	Marco Newbury
7	Tilly Freakley	4	Humphrey Barratt
6	James Bason	3	Romeo Lovatt

Attainment Top in each year

8	Siena Barber	5	Lily Davies
7	Isaac Mitchell	4	Marcie Keeling
6	Evie Coghill	3	Celeste Morison

Overall Winner: Evie Coghill**Music Practice Certificates**

Tessa Withers, Mia Webster, Rex Yip, Evie Coghill, Susannah Pallister, Tallula Caswell,
Thea Casey, Laurie Withers, Aubrey McCosh

Overall Winner: Bonnie Freakley**Drama Stars for effort and performance in the duologues**

Year 6	Year 7
Evie Coghill Flora Barratt Bea Triplow Lilly Ford-Dennis Joey Mace Johnny Crossley	Libby Whitworth Rosie Gilman Polly Harrison Alex Papakonstantinou Toby Gotts Tilly Freakley

LAMDA Results

Level 3	Level 1
Romilly Hammond (Distinction) Mia Webster (Distinction) Arabella Williams (Distinction)	Charlie Denham (Distinction) Henry King (Merit) Johnny Crossley (Merit)

Art Golden Brushes:

8	Honor Hambro	5	Noah Buchan
7	Libby Whitworth	4	Humphrey Barratt
6	Evie Hannant	3	Alexander Steel

Townsend Warner History Qualifiers: best in year:
Romilly Hammond, Tabitha Gurney and Evie Coghill

Golden Brush: (tidiest classroom) Winner: **Year 3**, Runner Up: **Year 4**

SPORT

The Nieboer Cup: Alex Papakonstantinou

The Vestey Rugby Tankard (Most improved): Rex Yip and Rex Stilwell

The Stowe Cup (Most Improved): Isaac Mitchell, Honor Hambro

Year Group Bubble of the Term: Year 6 (Usually Team of the Term)

Sports Colours:

U13 Rugby: Aubrey McCosh, Kit Pallister, Albert Cole

U11 Hockey: Malika Lazell, Evie Coghill, Flora Barratt, Flavia Boyce, Lilly Ford-Dennis

U13 Hockey: Zelig Birkbeck, Romilly Hammond, Paige Brun, India Barber, Siena Barber, Arabella Williams

House Sports results

Sport	1	2	3	4
Snr Hockey	Danes	Vikings	Romans	Normans
Jnr Hockey	Vikings	Danes	Romans	Normans
Snr Rugby (girls)	Normans & Vikings		Romans and Danes	
Snr Rugby (boys)	Danes & Romans		Normans	Vikings
Jnr Rugby (girls)	Normans	Romans & Vikings		Danes
Jnr Rugby (boys)	Vikings	Danes & Normans		Romans
Overall	Vikings	Danes	Normans	Romans

House Competitions

Event	1	2	3	4
Academic	Normans	Vikings	Romans	Danes
Citizenship	Vikings	Normans	Danes	Romans
Supermerit	Vikings	Normans	Romans	Danes
Sport	Vikings	Danes	Normans	Romans
Duties	Vikings	Normans	Romans	Danes
Music	Normans	Danes	Romans	Vikings
Bliss Cup (Overall)	Vikings (10)	Normans (11)	Danes (19)	Romans (20)

CAROL SERVICE

We said our fond goodbyes to the wonderful Sophie Newby who heads home in a week's time, after an amazing year of service to Beeston, and then, naturally enough, we completed the year with our Carol Service, risking the rain in order to sing carols, complete with descants, lustily fighting off passing sirens!







Mrs Rees, as ever, drew us all into breezy and cheerful reflection on the importance of togetherness, light and thanks, beautifully, to bring to end a term which has been like no other. This phrase, which is in every radio programme and Christmas card this year, may be overused, but is one which we can, I would humbly contend, say we have acquitted ourselves with distinction. Thank you all and have a lovely, relaxing Christmas!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred de Falbe', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred de Falbe