

SEVENOAKS TODAY



Plain Sailing

On 28 and 29 June, the British School Sailing National and International finals took place at Bough Beech, with 20 teams competing: 17 from the UK, two from Ireland and one from Germany.

Sevenoaks had a lot to live up to, having finished first and second in 2009. Day one was very successful with the A team going undefeated and Sevenoaks B team only dropping one race – in an encounter with Sevenoaks A!

Day two saw much better conditions, with a good south-westerly wind allowing for plenty of quality racing. The league stage finished with Sevenoaks A remaining undefeated and coming out on top, Schull from Ireland second, Sevenoaks B third and King’s College fourth.

In the first semi-final Sevenoaks A continued their good form, dispatching King’s 2-0 after some very slick racing. Unfortunately, Sevenoaks B lost 2-0 to Schull after a very hard-fought battle. This meant that Sevenoaks A, as the only British team in the final, was crowned national champions. This is the 18th time Sevenoaks has won the National Schools title in the competition’s 22-year history.

Sevenoaks sailors retain national title



All that remained was the showdown for the schools international title between Sevenoaks A and Schull. Sevenoaks took the first race comfortably but the Irish team bounced back to take the title 2-1.

Sevenoaks will certainly be hungry to triumph again in next year’s nationals and win back the international title, but can reflect upon another successful year and be proud to have the top two school sailing teams in the country.

Sevenoaks A:

National Schools champions and International runner-up:

Georgia Trapp (Capt), Camilla Pudney, Nick Ashton, Sophie Shall, Laurence Gibbons, Emily McEachern

Sevenoaks B:

National Schools runner-up

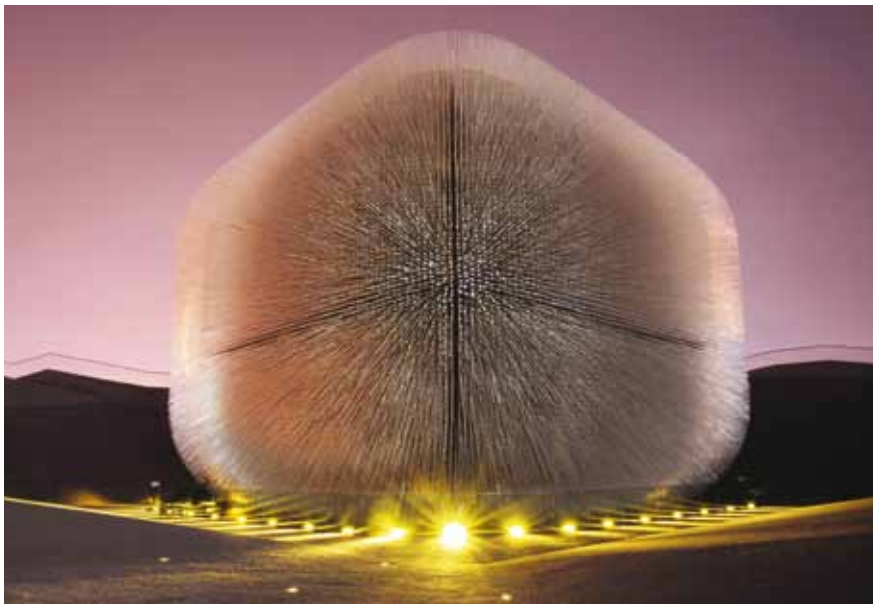
Henry Forward (Capt), Victoria Moynes, Harrison Hodgkins, Ben Moverley Smith, Jacob Rainbow, Imogen Palmer



Making the grade

Sevenoaks School is celebrating its GCSE and IGCSE results. Just under 90 per cent of the examinations taken by the 141 candidates were awarded A* or A grades and about 58 per cent of all examinations were graded A*. **Janice Chui, Emily Lindsay, Alexander McBride, Tom McGee, Freya Mead, Harriet Rudd-Jones, Catherine Xu, Megan Yeates** and **Serena Yuen** gained 11 A*s each. All but 23 results out of 1417 examinations were grade B or above.

Our IB results were equally impressive. The following students achieved the maximum diploma score of 45 points: **Anastasia Bogatyreva, Alice Boughton, Abby Carruthers, Rose Innes, Lucy Keevil, Sophia Michael, Alastair White, Rachel Wilson, Tiffany Wong** and **Isobel Wood**. 18 students obtained 44 points and 118 students achieved 40 points or above. The average Diploma score was 39.5. No student achieved below 30 points – a notable achievement, given that the world average is around 29.8 points.



Grand Designs

Thomas Heatherwick (OS) has been awarded the prestigious London Design Medal. He recently designed the UK pavilion for the Shanghai 2010 Expo which attracted five million visitors. It won the Royal Institute of British Architects Lubetkin Prize. He is one of Britain's leading designers. His Seed Cathedral is pictured above. Congratulations to the Design Technology department and three of its students: **Adam Gristock, Matthew Shairp** and **Alexander Sandeford** (all L6), who have received Arkwright Scholarships. Arkwright Scholars pass a rigorous selection process and are to be Ambassadors of flourishing Design and Technology and Maths departments in their schools.



Well worth the admission

The school was delighted to welcome as a Visiting Fellow Dr Kelly Moule (pictured left), of the University of Bristol, where she is Admissions Tutor for Biochemistry. During her three-day visit to Sevenoaks, Dr Moule shared her expertise on scientific and admissions matters with both staff and Sixth Form students. The high point of Dr Moule's visit was a fascinating lecture on obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Gifted and Talented

The school continues to lead the Gifted and Talented Partnership with six maintained secondary schools from north-west Kent. The project has been funded for three years by the Department for Education in order to raise student aspirations in Science, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages. Workshops have included a forensics day, a Jaguar Maths Challenge, and a Russian language and culture day. The 12 workshops which we have so far run have involved over 500 pupils.



Watch this Space!

The Space, Sevenoaks School's Performing Arts Centre, has won two prestigious architectural awards. Designed by Tim Ronalds Architects and opened in April 2010, it has triumphed in the Commercial & Public Access category in the 2010 Wood Awards and the Best Education Building category at the Brick Awards.

The Wood Awards, now in its eighth year, is the UK's premier architecture and furniture competition celebrating excellence in design in wood. The criteria for these awards are based on design, craftsmanship and quality of installation. The judges 'were instantly overwhelmed by the magnificence and grandeur of the building'. They added, 'The roof of the concert hall is outstanding. The high standard of workmanship is evident in every aspect of this project, from the beautifully crafted handrails to the asymmetric pyramid roof in the recital room.'

The Brick Awards is one of the longest established and most widely respected design awards in the UK, and recognises excellence in design and construction using brick. The Brick Awards judges noted that The Space 'exploits the topography of the site and therefore creates a number of external spaces and internal volumes that combine to make a satisfying composition'.

Exploring the Space

■ We are now halfway through the first season of The Space and it is clear that the building is a resounding success. The Pamoja Hall has hosted a number of classical concerts by both amateur and professional musicians, as well as an Unplugged gig. OS **Hannah Dawson**, a professional violinist, performed with the Sacconi String Quartet (pictured right) and, most recently, our musicians joined forces with Voces8, Britain's foremost young a cappella group, in a day of workshops and masterclasses, culminating in a superb evening concert. The Pamoja Hall has delighted audience members and performers, both amateur and professional, with its outstanding acoustics. We look forward to welcoming The Sixteen, the voices of Classic FM, on 10 May 2011, as part of our second season. Detailed on this page are other events that have graced The Space.

■ This year's **Young Musicians' Forum** was the first to be presented on the stage of the Pamoja Hall. It was great to see various recent musical alumni of the school in attendance to appreciate the talent of current Sevenoaks students as well as **Minn Majoe** (OS 2008), pictured below.



■ The **comedy night**, which took place on Friday 17 September, was a tremendous success and raised approximately £2300 for Lawrence's Roundabout Well Appeal. Three comedians, Dom Holland, Hal Cuttenden and Matt Welcome, turned up to support the charity and perform.

■ On Friday 1 October, a group of musicians assembled in the Recital Room of The Space for a **Harpichord Evening**. The audience was entranced by an assortment of pieces performed on a variety of instruments. The second half of the concert was devoted to the keyboard works of J S Bach.



■ A audience of staff, parents and pupils enjoyed the showing of Deputy Head **Chris Greenhalgh's** film *Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky* on Monday 6 September. This was the school's first chance to see the film since its release this year and it was also our first opportunity to use the new state-of-the-art data projector donated by the Parents' Association.

■ The Autumn season at The Space opened with a stunning performance by **Schola Cantorum** of Oxford. Under the inspiring musicianship of Jamie Burton, the Oxford-based student chamber choir presented a feast of music from 1610 to the present day.



An Elite Clubb

■ Having been a regular member of the National Youth Orchestra since October 2007, **Oliver Blackwell** (U6) has this year been appointed leader of the cello section. This is a fine achievement and a rare honour. Congratulations also to **Alex Ying** (U6) who has been offered an organ scholarship at St Catherine's College, Cambridge for September 2011. Congratulations to **Johan Clubb** (Y8), who was awarded the Cup in the 'own choice' piano section (12-14 years) in the Kingston-upon-Thames Festival of the Performing Arts. Johan chose to play 'The Little Shepherd' from Debussy's suite *Children's Corner* and has been invited to return to play again in the prizewinners' concert on 11 December.

■ In July, 12 members of the **Sennocke Consort** visited Tuscany for the third successive summer, staying in Corsagna and giving a concert in the Oratorio San Angeli. In a departure from choral singing, **Alexander Ying** and **Alexander McBride** took the role of conductor for three pieces. The repertoire, ranging from 16th century unaccompanied English church music to 19th and 20th century masterpieces, was all learned on location and performed to an enthusiastic audience in temperatures of over 35°C.



House of Desires

The cast of Penny Hargreaves' production of *House of Desires* (12-14 October) took on their roles with panache and enthusiasm. This was apparent from the magnetism and dynamics on stage, from Grant Arnold's haughty Don Pedro to Will Hearle's innocently devoted Don Carlos. Yet the stage was stolen not by the nobility, but one of the servants, Sam Manyweathers' Castaño, whose cross-dressing and on-stage costume-change was the highlight for many in the audience.

Dead funny

Nikolai Erdman's innovative and recherché masterpiece, *The Suicide*, opened in the newly refurbished Sackville Theatre in June with a spectacular mixture of the ridiculous and sublime. Despite the title, Jim Grant and Mark Beverley's production provided an evening of brilliantly-paced farce and slapstick gags, with stand-out performances by Will Barratt as the lead and Amritha John as his wife.



Beetlemania

The Ordovsky-Tanaevsky Drama Studio staged its first ever public performance on 30 September, with a compelling and dynamic one-hour version of Steven Berkoff's *Metamorphosis* – directed and produced by a talented group of Lower Sixth students.

Based on the novella by Franz Kafka, the story tells the parable of Gregor Samsa (superbly played by Ed Broadhead, pictured below) – a humble, industrious man who, upon waking one morning, finds himself transformed into a gigantic beetle-like insect.

The whole cast (Phoebe Dunn, Oscar Flamank, Adam Gristock and Freya Mead) brilliantly exemplified Berkoff's trademark physical, expressionistic style, displaying both impressive individual and ensemble skills.



Dunn deal

■ In September, the Drama department welcomed Clare Dunn, a professional theatre director and practitioner, to work with pupils and lead workshops with the Lower School production cast.

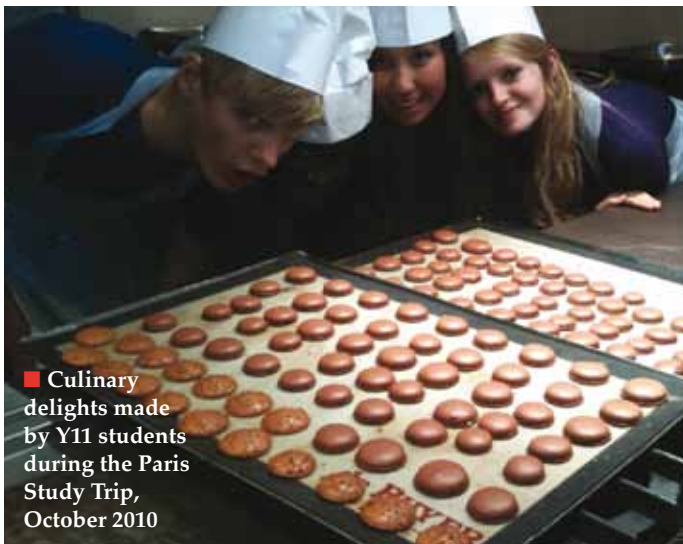


■ A Sevenoaks student helping to teach Indian orphans, PROMO trip to Mumbai, Summer 2010.

Italian Job

On 17 October 2010 a group of Upper and Lower Sixth students set off to spend a week in Orvieto in Italy, approximately 100km north of Rome.

Orvieto is full of charm, history, architectural and artistic sites, and was an ideal place to experience the essence of Italian life and culture. The students' time was filled with educational and creative activities: Italian classes on four days, excursions in the town, classes in ceramic decoration and cookery and a day trip to Rome. All lessons at the language school were conducted in Italian. The students' vocabulary, fluency and comprehension all greatly increased, as did their appreciation of Italian culture and cuisine.



■ Culinary delights made by Y11 students during the Paris Study Trip, October 2010



St Lucia Tour

Netball

The 18 girls made up two netball teams, each of which played six matches. Over the ten days we played a mixture of teams, varying in both standard and experience, including a local school team and also the St Lucian national side.

The first team performed consistently well, winning all but two games. Despite not being used to the extreme heat, we started the tour with four wins and gained in confidence. Though we attempted to match their athleticism, the St Lucian national team eventually exposed our lack of height in defence and this saw us lose our first game in our fifth match.

Emily Elliott was voted player of the tour for the Firsts, with **Lucy Reid** as most improved, and **Kathy Stocker** was the Second's player of the tour.

Cricket

At the end of the summer the majority of the First XI squad travelled to St Lucia where they played against very competitive opposition. All but the first game were very close, so a record of four wins in five matches was highly commendable. **Tom Nickols** was the leading run-scorer and **Ed Woodhouse-Darry** the leading wicket-taker. No one will forget **Cameron De Haan's** and **Charlie Farrant's** spectacular catches, nor **Rory Dunnett's** whirling but effective knock in the final match.



Pilgrimage of Progress

A week before October half term, 41 Y10 Spanish students travelled to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain for a highly successful study trip. Two enjoyable day trips involved a visit to Galicia's beautiful coastline, where the entire group was fortunate enough to spot a dozen dolphins, and an excursion to La Coruña, where Spanish met Biology in the 'Domus', an interactive museum exploring the human body. The students were excellent company throughout the week, made huge linguistic progress, and received very positive feedback from the academy's teachers and their host families.



Sporting success

■ Chess

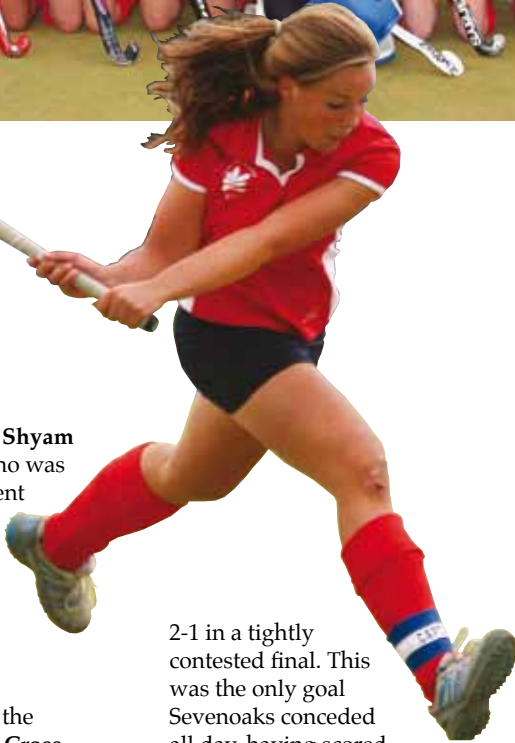
Congratulations to **Shyam Kalairajah** (Y9), who was a member of the Kent Chess Team which won the U14 National Inter-county Chess Championship.

■ Cross Country

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls' **Cross Country** team, who came third at the English Schools National Cross Country Cup regional round (South East) on Saturday 13 November. The team has qualified for the National Finals, which will be held in Newcastle at the start of December. **Ruth Bourne** (Y10) won the race by 18 seconds, **Tabitha Adams** (Y10), **Chloe Rouse** and **Georgina Barker** (both Y9) completing the team to finish third overall.

■ Hockey

The **U16 Girls' Hockey** team (pictured above) successfully defended their title from last year with an impressive set of results at the County Hockey Tournament in October. They defeated King's Canterbury



2-1 in a tightly contested final. This was the only goal Sevenoaks conceded all day, having scored 17 in total. The team will go forward to represent Kent in the East Regional round in late November.

Congratulations to **Lily Elliott** (Y11), pictured above, and **Natasha Farrant** (Y10), who have been selected for the Saxon Tigers U16 Futures Cup side and U15 HiPAC squad respectively. Lily will train and compete in the U16 Futures Cup tournament at the end of October and Tash will do more training at the U15 High Performance Assessment Camp at the beginning of October.

The **U14 Hockey** team can be very proud of their excellent performance at the Kent

Schools hockey tournament in Canterbury. They beat TWGGS 4-0 in the quarter-final but were defeated 1-0 in their semi-final showdown against Kent College, Canterbury.

■ Rugby

Danny Caprice (OS 2008) member of the England Sevens Squad from the Commonwealth Games, returned to Sevenoaks School on Friday 24 September to give some rugby coaching. Danny, who studied the IB at Sevenoaks on a Findlay Sports Scholarship, 2006-8,



ran a session for the current 1st XV squad. He put the squad through a number of challenging skills and drills.

■ Sailing

On Saturday 9 October Sevenoaks sent two teams to compete in the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association (BSDRA) Autumn championships, held by King's Canterbury. Sevenoaks A team had some narrow escapes but sailed very well to go undefeated and win the competition. Sevenoaks B lost just two races and finished second overall.

■ Swimming

School swimming captain **James Manning** (U6), along with **Caroline Gloyne** and **Daniel Adeline** (both L6), has qualified to compete in the National Schools Inter-Divisional Swimming Championships.

Over October half term **Daniel Adeline** and **James Manning** represented a combined Kent and Surrey team at the English Schools Swimming Championships in Watford, helping their team to win the trophy for the most improved team at the Championships. Both boys swam significant personal bests. James' time in Senior Boys' 100m freestyle was good enough to qualify for the final, where he finished sixth.

A team of James, Daniel, **Max Wallis** and **Robbie Hammond** (both U6) swimmers won the Kent and Surrey Freestyle and Medley relays and are now in a strong position to qualify for the National Finals in Stockport.

■ Volleyball

Congratulations to our girls' **Volleyball** team, who were runners-up at the Independent Schools' National Beach Volleyball Championships. They lost their only match of the day in the final (29-25) against Epsom.