

2018-2019

# ACHIEVEMENT

Where pupils thrive



**Celebrating our current successes and looking to an exciting future**

Achievement can be measured in many ways. Underlying every success is a story of individuals understanding their talents and honing their skills. Our broad curriculum provides many opportunities for pupils to grow in confidence and achieve. We encourage each individual and help them learn to persevere so they thrive during their time at Thames and beyond.

This year truly reflects a breadth of achievement. Our GCSE results have again beaten the national average and we've had some outstanding performances. Our Year 10 was awarded the Nancy Griffiths Prize in the ISA Drama Competition and was one of five

schools invited to perform at the ISA Annual Heads Conference. Margot won the ISA National KS4 Drawing competition and Jed won bronze in the ISA National Cross Country competition. We've launched the Duke of Edinburgh Award with 25 pupils signed up for the Bronze Award. We've also had a record number of clubs, co-curricular activities and speakers, including the Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence.

As well as this we are particularly excited that in September 2021 we will be moving into a new, modern, state of the art building adjacent to Clapham Junction station. With space for a three form entry and a sixth form this represents a significant step in our journey. It will drive our vision by providing a contemporary, fit for purpose environment, where our pupils will be able to achieve and succeed to an even greater level.

Stephen Holsgrove  
Head

## A NEW CHAPTER FOR THAMES

Our stunning new state of the art premises adjacent to Clapham Junction station is now under construction and will be ready for September 2021.

This will give Thames a new space with specialist facilities including three science laboratories and four science classrooms, art, graphics and textiles studios, DT workrooms, a food technology room, a theatre, a dance and drama studio, music facilities with a recording studio, a library, a sixth form centre and use of an adjoining multi-use games area.



The innovative design has classrooms around courtyards to create a light and spacious feel that reflects our ethos.





Capacity for 320 pupils allowing a three form entry at Year 7 and a sixth form.

## GCSE RESULTS 2019

Thames offers an educational environment where all pupils can thrive and which brings out their best irrespective of background or academic ability.

This year the percentage of 9-7 (A\*/A) grades was 23% and 9-4 (A\*/C) 83%, again beating the national average. 86% of our pupils achieved at least one 9-7 (A\*/A) grade and 41% achieved at least two 9-7 (A\*/A) grades. A high percentage of 9-7 grades were achieved in subjects including: Art/Graphics 91%, History 50%, Business Studies 33%, Physics 33% and English Literature 25%.

Thames Christian School was included in the list of 25 top London schools in the March edition of *Country Life Guide to Good Schools*. The guide stated "GCSE results last year were above average and there is a wide range of subjects on offer. Leavers all go on to further education whether A levels, IB or the performing arts."



### REUBEN

Reuben achieved 9s in Physics and Business Studies, 8s Maths, Geography and Art, 7s in Biology, Religious Studies and English Literature and 6 in English Language. These results enabled him to take up a place at Kingsdale, his first choice sixth form, to take A Levels in Maths, Physics and Geography. Reuben embodied the ethos of the school as Deputy Head Boy and was a valuable member of the 2017 Tanzania team, determined to make a difference to the lives of villagers there.

## SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

The PE curriculum offers a broad and balanced range of 15 sports focusing on developing physical skills and personal fitness.

**CROSS COUNTRY** Jed, age 15, attained Bronze in the ISA National XC Year 11-13 race in March, having qualified by finishing third in the London West XC in February. Jimmy, Year 9, finished 11th in the Year 9/10 race. In the Wandsworth Schools XC Jed won silver in the Year 11 race, qualifying him for the London Schools XC, and Jimmy came 4th in his race.

**FOOTBALL** Our senior and junior football teams had a successful year with exciting wins against Kingston Grammar School, Kew House School, Harrodian and Ibstock Place amongst others.

**ATHLETICS** In the ISA London West Athletics, Jed won gold in the 800m and Jimmy won silver in the 1500m, qualifying them to represent London West at the ISA National Athletics Competition. Jimmy also won silver at the London Youth Games Aquathlon, a discipline combining swim and run.

**INTER-HOUSE SPORT** Internal school competitions have taken place in rugby, football, volleyball and athletics.

**NETBALL** The girls are unbeaten this year, having won all matches.



## CREATIVE ARTS

**THE PAJAMA GAME** Our production of the musical *The Pajama Game* at The Clapham Grand in July was a real hit. The show was directed and choreographed by Mrs Alice Burnett who trained in Musical Theatre at Bird College and is herself a past pupil of Thames and co-directed by Mrs Rhian Treloar who trained at The Birmingham School of Acting. Musical Director was Head of Music, Dr Paul Mitchell, assisted by professional opera singer, Ms Madeleine Holmes. The choreography, colourful costumes and set were enjoyed by parents, community groups and pupils from local schools.

**DRAMA** In the ISA Drama Competition, our Year 10 pupils were awarded the Nancy Griffiths Prize for their realistic interpretation of *Burning Bird* by John Donnelly. Hannah received specific praise from the adjudicator for her portrayal of Daisy with real weight and realism. The pupils were one of just five schools invited to perform at the performing arts showcase at the ISA Annual Head's Conference.



**MUSIC** Parents enjoyed a high standard of individual vocal, choral and instrumental performances, including from our music scholars, at our Musical Evening, Christmas Carol Concert, Awards Night and Tanzania Fundraising Dinner. Our Year 7 choir took part in a community Christmas Concert at York Gardens Library.

Thames pupils have also been invited to join a community Gospel choir for secondary school pupils run by Cecelia Wickham Anderson of The Kingdom Choir.

**LAMDA** In the LAMDA graded awards, Emi, Year 10, attained Merit Grade 8 Gold Acting, following her Grade 7 Silver in Year 9 and Grade 6 Bronze in Year 8. Amelia, Year 9, achieved Merit in Grade 6 Bronze Acting.

**ART** Margot won the ISA National KS4 Drawing Competition with her *Portrait of a Young Girl*. Kylie was runner up with her self portrait after they won joint first place in the ISA South West London regional competition.



*“Thames has given our son the most amazing educational opportunities through which he has thrived, learnt and grown so much into a fully rounded person.”*

Thames parent, 2019

## TEACHERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Miss Mercy Dennis-Smith ran the 58km Jurassic Coast Challenge from Poole to Weymouth in 8 hours 8 minutes, coming sixth.

Miss Bobbi Kumari visited Sierra Leone to work with Living Seeds, a social enterprise. She helped young adults launch their own fashion label and take their first fashion shoot.

Mr Richard Smith completed the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in Liverpool, raising over £500 for A21 Campaign.

# BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH** Thames is now licensed to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Over 25 pupils from Years 9 and 10 signed up to take the Bronze Award.

**CO-CURRICULAR WORKSHOPS** Visiting professionals ran workshops including:

- Architect Will Dixon led sessions with Year 7 on Le Corbusier, using his Five Points of Architecture to build interesting and modern 3D designs.
- Years 9 and 10 took part in a STEM workshop led by the Marine Society & Sea Cadets.
- Professional ceramicist Jo Davies led sessions for Year 11 art pupils in which they created and glazed ceramic pieces as part of the Art GCSE portfolio.
- Marketing and branding consultant Sebastian Paul led design workshops with Years 7 and 8.
- Year 10 created a pop-up bookshop in an enterprise project run by Moon Lane Ink.
- Eleanor Steele, an ex-BBC journalist, led journalism workshops for Years 7, 8 and 9.
- Agora Arts Circle led a Year 8 project in response to artist Giacomo Balla. The artworks were developed further by local artists for display at Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

**CAMPS** Year 7 enjoyed climbing, abseiling, raft-building and team-building activities at their annual residential camp at The Horstead Centre on the Norfolk Broads.

**TRIPS** Pupils have participated in educational visits including: Imperial War Museum, Battersea Magistrates Court, BETT Show, Tower of London, Charles Dickens Museum, The Globe, Tate Britain, Kew Gardens, Science Museum, The Crystal, Brooklands Museum, Wimbledon Synagogue, Museum of the Book, Horniman Museum and the British Library. Theatre trips included productions of *Jesus Hopped on the A Train*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Peter Pan* and *The Government Inspector*.



**CLUBS 2018-2019** Co-curricular clubs included: advanced coding, badminton, basketball, choir, debating, dissections, documentary films, Eco-Schools, football, HIIT, hip-hop, hockey, instrumental ensemble, international culture & cooking, jazz close harmony, law, life drawing, music theory, orienteering, origami, prop-making, rugby, songwriting, Spanish Spelling Bee, STEM, table tennis, tennis and woodwork.

## ALYS

Alys came to Thames in Year 7 from The Dominie, a specialist school for dyslexia. She graduated with grades that were a tribute to her hard work and responsiveness to teacher feedback. In her GCSEs she achieved grade 7 in Business Studies, 6 in Art and 5s in English Language, English Literature, Maths and Geography with a Value Add of 1.0. Her Value Add in Business Studies was 3.0. Alys will study Business and Photography at William Morris Sixth Form.



*“Thames achieves a rare balance: it allows its pupils to be themselves valuing their different talents, interests, personalities and quirks. At the same time the Thames ethos challenges and supports pupils to engage, work hard academically and, perhaps most importantly, take responsibility for their behaviour, decisions and the role they want to play in the world. This is a very special mix.”*

## ACADEMIC

**NACE** Thames joined the National Association for Able Children in Education, an organisation dedicated to helping schools support more able pupils.

**ENGLISH** Seven Year 9 pupils had poems published in *Poetry Escape London*, a Young Writers competition. Twenty-one pupils were selected for publication in *Stranger Sagas*, a 100 word short story competition.

**DEBATING** Freya, Year 8, and Ezra, Year 9, represented Thames in the ESU London schools competition. They proposed the motion: "This house would weight votes such that the younger the voter, the more powerful their vote." Year 7 debated against Dolphin School Year 6, opposing the motion: "This house believes that veganism is the only moral dietary choice."

**MATHEMATICS** In the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, Albert achieved Gold, Daniel, Isaiah, Tiger, Cecilia and Rim Silver, and Kalab, Alexi and Caleb Bronze. In the Senior Challenge, Cristina was awarded Silver and four pupils were awarded Bronze.

**SCIENCE** In the RSB Biology Challenge Year 9 pupils Samuel, Mary and James achieved Silver, Zlata Bronze and five others Highly Commended.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE** Bailey, Year 9, achieved grade 8 in his Computer Science IGCSE.



*"We are so proud of what our son has achieved thanks to being in a supportive environment where the teachers 'got him' and believed in him"*

Thames parent, 2019

## CHARITABLE SUPPORT

**GO MAD IN TANZANIA** Twenty-two pupils have signed up for our next trip to rural Tanzania to work with Go MAD. The team organised a sell-out dinner and auction in March which was enjoyed hugely by parents and guests. Auction prizes included tickets to Royal Ascot, an apartment in Tuscany and a night at Belvoir Castle courtesy of the Duchess of Rutland, patron of Go MAD. The evening raised £8,600. Proceeds will fund water tanks, goat sheds and healthcare during the pupils' trip in October 2019. The team has also been raising funds in creative ways to cover their personal trip costs.

Our Sponsored Cross Country this year raised £6,130.83 for charity. £5,000 went to Go MAD, £2,500 of which has funded mobile health clinics in remote villages and £2,500 a nursery school. £1,130.83 benefitted Providence House, a youth centre in Battersea, whose goal is to provide local young people with a sense of community and identity. £625 from our tuck shop was donated to A21 Campaign to help combat human trafficking.

## PAST PUPILS CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

**NICK** (2013) completed the first three years of an integrated Masters in Computer Science at Queen Mary's University of London, gaining a first class honours degree.

**SAM** (2017) completed a BTEC in Aeronautical Engineering at Kingston College which led to an engineering apprenticeship at Marshalls in Cambridge, one of the largest aerospace and defence companies in the UK.

**PELUMI** (2016) attained A\* in Maths and As in Physics and Chemistry A levels last summer

and is now studying for a degree in Physics at University College London.

**JAMES** (2018) gained the top prize of a Roentgenium Award in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and was invited to attend a three day science course at St Catherine's College Cambridge.

**DARIO** (2016) is now a professional ice hockey player for HC La Chaux-de-Fonds in his native Switzerland. Dario played regularly for Guildford Firekings throughout his time at Thames.

# CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

## SPEAKERS/VISITORS 2018-2019 INCLUDED:

- The Rt Hon Stuart Lawrence, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
- LZ7, Band, with lead singer Lindz West
- Justyn Larcombe, Chartered Risk Manager and Charity CEO
- Harry Phinda, Queens Young Leader 2018
- Rob Hooks, London City Mission
- Theo Brun, author who cycled from China to London
- Lee Pycroft, celebrity makeup artist and life coach
- Ahenkora Bediako, Detective Sergeant, Metropolitan Police
- Colonel Christopher Rider
- Graham McClure, Go MAD
- Hannah Tice, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust
- Thea Poysden, Civil Engineer, Babcock International
- Gareth Wallace, Conservative Christian Fellowship
- David Smith, Museum of the Book
- Janice Whyne, development worker in Indonesia
- David Ritchie, careers advisor
- Mikey Frome, A21 Campaign

### KATE

Kate attained 9s in Biology, English Language and English Literature, 8 in Physics and 7s in Maths and Chemistry, with a Value Add of 2.7. Kate came to Thames in Year 10 having been at a hospital school. These results are a credit to her perseverance despite a chronic health condition. In 2018 Kate had articles published in *This is Local London* as part of Newsquest's Young Reporter Scheme. Kate goes on to take A Levels in English, Chemistry and Psychology at Collingham College.



**PARLIAMENT WEEK** Parliament Week in November focused on women in politics, marking the centenary of women's suffrage. Guest speakers included:

- Marsha De Cordova MP, Labour, Battersea, talked about her work as an MP and her support of the disabled.
- Hannah Tooze, who runs a team who write and implement policies, spoke about how laws are made.
- Amna Ahmad, Liberal Democrat candidate for Sutton and Cheam, described how she entered into politics.
- The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan, Conservative MP for Loughborough & Chair, House of Commons Treasury Select Committee, spoke about politics today and her life as a politician.



**QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD WEEK** Designed to promote critical thinking and facilitate an exchange of beliefs and different worldviews, Questions About God Week offered interested pupils the opportunity to participate in discussions over lunch. Topics and speakers included:

- Science and God: Jake Moores, Hillsong Church
- What it means to be a Christian: Lucy Green, Stewards Trust
- What is the purpose of humanity? Joel Hughes, St Mark's Battersea
- Does God exist? Josh Moxon, Holy Trinity Clapham
- Suffering: Joshua Hansen, Zacharias Trust

*"I love so much the ethos of the school and I see it reflected in my daughter's growth as a young teenager."*

Thames parent, 2019



## HARRY

In his GCSEs Harry achieved grade 8 in Geography, 7s in Maths, Physics and History and 6s in English Language, Biology, Computer Science and Religious Studies. He has taken up a place at Graveney School to study Economics, Politics, Geography and Maths A Levels. Harry plays golf for Surrey at county level. As Head Boy Harry was an excellent role model who was always open to new challenges. He went to Tanzania with the school in 2017 and was a keen participant in the school's annual musical, starring as Edna in Hairspray in 2018.

## GAINING LIFE SKILLS

**CAREERS FAIR** Forty professionals shared their extensive experience at our Careers Fair. Pupils and parents alike were greatly inspired by the range of careers represented which included law, architecture, medicine, engineering, performing arts, media, the police, fire brigade, accountancy, banking, the arts, catering and childcare. The professionals reported a high level of interest and many thoughtful questions.

**YOUNG LEADERS' LAB** Our school council, sports captains and mentors met twice a month to develop their leadership skills, facilitated by Jake Moores, Hillsong schools worker.

**WELLBEING** Thames has joined the Girls on Board initiative aimed at helping teenage girls understand the complexities and dynamics of girls' friendships and build resilience. A lunchtime club, Riding the Wave, was one result of this initiative.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION** Ten Thames pupils worked with local elderly people in a series of workshops entitled Generation A-Z. Together they confronted ageist attitudes and got to know each other, making art together supported by artists Sam Haynes and Alejandra Carles-Tolra.



## OVERSEAS TRIPS

**ITALY** A group of Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils enjoyed a four day Geography/Latin trip to the Bay of Naples in October. They saw first hand how the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD shaped this part of Italy through visits to Herculaneum, Pompeii, Baia and Capri. At Pompeii pupils learnt how the Romans invented speed bumps, fast food takeaways and systems to run a polyglot city. They climbed Vesuvius, did some field sketching and enjoyed a mozzarella making demo at a local farm.