

# ParkLife



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEAFORD COLLEGE

BACK PAGE



QUEEN OF THE SURF

SEAFORD College has extended its sporting opportunities with the introduction of a new Tennis Academy.

Although many schools, both independent and state, offer tennis as part of their PE curriculum, very few offer it as a major sport.

The College has recruited the services of experienced and successful tennis coach James Bird, who comes from Colchester, to tutor students at the Saturday morning academy.

## New sporting chapter unfolds

The college is also increasing opportunities for up and coming cricketers with the appointment of former Kent and England cricketer Min Patel, who will be providing coaching for boys and girls.

Seaford College headmaster John Green said: "Tennis is a sport that can be played and enjoyed by all. The aim of the academy is to provide top

coaching for all abilities but also to put Seaford firmly on the map as a successful co-educational tennis school.

"With regard to cricket, Min Patel will provide both excellent winter and summer cricket coaching, which will greatly raise the profile of cricket at the College. I am also keen for girls'

cricket to run as a major sport at Seaford."

The school's hockey coach, Steve Paxton, is assisting Min Patel with this exciting new venture.

Seaford College has some of the finest sporting facilities of any school in the South East. It was the first to have an all-weather water-based hockey pitch and also has an impressive 9-hole golf course with its own resident golf professional.

Last term saw a record number of pupils involved in competitive sport.

# Place is buzzing with new ideas

**J**OHN Green, the new headmaster at Seaford College, has wasted little time in continuing to push the college as one of the most popular providers of independent education in Sussex.

In his first term at the helm, Mr Green has introduced a new management structure, with two new deputy heads.

Mr James Passam has made a significant impact on the middle school (Years 9-11) by reviewing all academic structures and pastoral support procedures, while Mr Will Yates has been reviewing all matters involving Sixth Form education – and it is very clear the pupils are enjoying and benefiting from his vast experience.

The new Year 9 enrichment carousel began in September (see story inside) and the feedback from pupils and parents has been excellent.

### Academic partnership

Mr Green is very keen to increase the parent/tutor partnership and, since the start of the new academic year, each year group from Year 9 upwards has had a special parent and tutor evening – making sure that this vital academic partnership is made right from the start of the year.

Mr Green said: "The tutor's role is central in both caring for pupils and, crucially, monitoring their progress both academically and socially; encouraging involvement, commitment, and high standards of work and behaviour.

"Academically I have been very impressed by the teaching and learning taking place across the College. I often drop in to lessons on 'learning walks'"



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JOHN GREEN

Internal inspections have been taking place to ensure all classes are as good as they can be and Mr Green said: "So far I have been very impressed by what I have seen and I look forward to exploring and assessing more departments over the year ahead." Sport continues to play a major part in



## Jonathan discovers Seaford's got talent

**S**INGING superstar tenor Jonathan Antoine joined students at Seaford College for their end of term carol concerts.

Jonathan who, together with his singing partner Charlotte Jaconelli, was runner-up in the 2012 series of Britain's Got Talent, is a pupil of College singing teacher Sara Reynolds, who also teaches at the Junior Royal Academy of Music in London.

He sang at both the College carol services with the Chapel Choir and the Senior Choir – just seven days after singing alongside one of Britain's top tenors, Russell Watson.

Sara said: "As you can imagine, the students were incredibly excited, as many followed his progress on the TV show with enormous enthusiasm once they knew he had been my pupil for the past three years.

"They have subsequently bought the albums – the

second of which was released just a month ago – and were desperately keen to meet him.

"Not only did they get to meet him – and sing with him – but they were able to spend time between the services finding out about the life of a young classical tenor thrust into stardom at the tender age of 17, as he was then. Jonathan is still only 18 and was quite an inspiration to our students, as proof of just what can be achieved if you work hard and chase your dreams."

Jonathan and Charlotte were offered a £1m recording deal by Simon Cowell following the series, in which they were pipped to first place by a dancing dog!

Their first album Together reached No 5 in the UK album charts and was later released in Canada and the USA. The duo are now under contract to Sony Records and their second album Perhaps Love, released in October, is already another top five best-seller.

College life and there have been some notable successes already this term (see the back page news reports) and the 1st XI hockey squad has been invited to a world event competition in South Africa later next year.

The rugby season got off to a flying start and the 1st XV have proved particularly strong, taking part in the Natwest Cup and defeating Christ's Hospital and Worth on the route to round four against Lord Wandsworth.

Mr Green said: "Without doubt, rugby at the College continues to move from strength to strength and it is clear our reputation amongst competitor schools is gaining momentum all the time."

This term has also seen the launch of a new community service programme. "Since my arrival as headmaster I have been very keen to improve links between the College and the local

community," said Mr Green. "Last year we had our extremely successful community action day with the whole senior school involved.

"So far this year the pupil body have been helping with a number of local projects including Brent Lodge animal hospital, Petworth House and the Mount Noddy animal sanctuary. A number of pupils have also been coaching sport in our Prep School and we were involved in the environment day at Oakwood School."

In addition to this, the College now has record numbers undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, as well as operating a most vibrant CCF programme.

It is clear that Mr Green has made a huge impact on Seaford already – with more surprises to come!

He said: "I am absolutely thrilled to

be headmaster of Seaford College. Parents have commented on the real vibrancy and dynamism to the pupil experience at Seaford. This is down to the outstanding teaching staff who are totally committed to providing a first class educational experience to each and every pupil.

"My aim is very simple in that I want to enable all pupils to achieve their personal bests inside and outside of the classroom. Seaford provides an incredibly supportive and inspirational environment where pupils feel confident that they can achieve.

"I have only been headmaster at Seaford for a couple of months but feel the changes that have been implemented are already producing excellent results. I look forward to building on this exciting progress over the months ahead."



## Sir Elton helps to nurture talented Ruby

SIXTH former Ruby Partridge has been awarded a prestigious Elton John bursary to assist with her studies at the Junior Royal Academy of Music (Jram) in London.

Year 12 student Ruby joined Seaford in September, having been awarded a music scholarship.



Ruby, from the Isle of Skye, Scotland, who also plays violin, is a member of the College Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, senior choir, orchestra and string group and has a leading role in this term's senior musical production 'Oh! What a Lovely War'.

The Elton John bursary is highly sought-after and only awarded to the most worthy of students – Sir Elton sponsors only a handful of Jram students and Ruby was fortunate to be selected as one of them this year.

Ruby has been attending Jram each Saturday since she started at Seaford and the bursary is designed to help her financially through her time at the Academy.

Her singing tutor Sara Reynolds, who teaches at Jram as well as at Seaford College, said: "Ruby decided to apply for Jram, having been awarded a music scholarship to come to Seaford, and successfully gained her place in the auditions in March, with a view to starting in September. Every Saturday she spends a long and busy day at one of the world's leading conservatoires, with singing as her primary instrument."

"She has immersed herself in life at the College too, being an active member of the orchestra and several choirs. Having come from the peace and tranquility of the Isle of Skye, Ruby is thoroughly enjoying her new life in Sussex – and the weekly trips up to the capital!"

## Bethany takes a bow

CONGRATULATIONS go to College junior sous-chef Aly Kent who gave birth to a bouncing baby girl on 11 November. Bethany weighed in at 8lb 2oz and can be sure of being well fed in the months to come, when she gets around to eating solids!

## Turning back the years in garden

STUDENTS from Seaford College have been helping to restore an historic kitchen garden at one of the region's leading National Trust properties.

Year 11 pupils have been busy getting to grips with restoring this integral part of Petworth House.

As part of the school's new community service initiative, which sees pupils from Seaford College taking part in projects to help their community each week, students have been assisting head gardener Gary Liddle to clear and restore an ancient kitchen garden and plant it up with the soft fruit and vegetables of the day.

Bay trees which have existed for

centuries are being hacked back, as are the sprawling agapanthus, being replaced with the flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs which would have been more appropriate to the age.

Students are also learning the art of dry stone walling, transforming an old outside toilet into a potting shed!

Tutor Clive Thorpe, who has taken on the mantle of community service co-ordinator, said: "The students are loving the challenge and gaining experience, whilst helping the local community."

Clive's 'gang' comprises Richard Venables Kyrke, Gus Calcutt, Tom Newman, Max Vallini and Luke Ayling.

## Generous legacy is set to flourish every year in College grounds

THE grounds at Seaford College will be 'blooming lovely' in future springs – thanks to a generous donation from former estates manager Ken Crosdil.

Ken, who still lives on the Lavington Estate, at the Bothy, has donated £500 to the school to buy more daffodil bulbs in memory of his late wife Ann.

Mrs Crosdil, who worked for many years in the school tuckshop, died seven years ago after suffering from breast cancer.

It was her last wish that the money should be given to the school in order to buy more of the

vibrant yellow daffodils she so used to enjoy. However, it was only recently that the bank drew the matter to Ken's attention – and he had no hesitation in handing it over to the current estates manager Paul Boarer.

Paul said: "A little while back I was speaking to Ken about wanting to plant some bulbs around the site. Within days, he handed me a donation for £500 informing me it was Ann's wish that this money be donated at the right time to be put towards daffodil bulbs, as she loved them."

"It was a lovely, unexpected gesture and we are very grateful to Ken and his late wife. We

haven't managed to plant the full amount yet, but will complete the job next year."

Ken, who was 80 in October, started work at the College in 1968 as the farm manager, teaching the boys about various aspects of farming.

When the farm was closed in the 1980s, Ken became the estates manager. He maintains he has still not entirely retired as he has some 4,000 birds at the poultry farm and is a regular stallholder at Chichester Farmers' Market, as well as selling his quality produce to staff and parents at the school.

He also takes his Jack Russell dog Jack to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital most weeks, visiting the children who are about to pass away.

Ken explained: "It's something Ann started with our last dog, a Pyrenean Mountain Dog, when children were treated at Petersfield and I have carried it on, even though it means going up to London."

"Jack lays on the bed next to the children in their final hours and they can feel him breathing and the warmth of his body as they get ready to go to Heaven."



## Macbeth casts its spell over audiences

THESPIAN talent was at the fore when students from Seaford College took on the dramatic challenge of 'the Scottish Play' – say it quietly – Macbeth.

Considered one of Shakespeare's darkest and most powerful tragedies, Macbeth dramatises the corrosive psychological and political effects produced when evil is chosen as a way to fulfil ambition and power.

Dramatically, it has much to offer... war, regicide, murder, a lust for power and the invocation of supernatural forces.

Written at the beginning of the 17th century when the Scottish King James succeeded to the English throne, and set a century earlier depicting a fictionalised account of King Macbeth, the play still echoes a chilling

resonance of events around the world today.

Consider recent news broadcasts featuring harrowing images from the streets of Cairo and Damascus. Even today, when rulers are toppled, the struggle for power can be brutal, bloody and without compassion.

It was with this background that Max Jukes took on the title role, with Freddie Miller as Macduff and Oulimata Jagne as Lady Macbeth. Violet Nicholls, Phoebe Reid and Lexie White played the harriard witches, while Scott Boarer took the role of Malcolm, with Becci Eden as Banquo.

The production, directed by Jane Askew, played to packed houses each night and proved yet again that Seaford College's dramatic force is indeed one to be reckoned with.

## Extra skills will enrich students

PUPILS at Seaford College are being invited to climb aboard a creative carousel.

The challenging and exciting venture, launched for all Year 9 students last term, means everyone will get the chance to learn additional skills to complement their academic achievements.

The enrichment programme includes music, dance, public speaking, bush craft, financial awareness, self defence, cooking, DIY skills/cycle maintenance and empathy skills – all of which are designed to increase the students' confidence as well as practical and emotional awareness.

The carousel – rotating subjects, as the name

suggests – has been welcomed by parents and pupils, and headmaster John Green said: "This extra wide portfolio of experience is without doubt adding to the development and academic profile of all pupils concerned."

Mr Green has introduced a number of changes to the College since taking over the helm in September. He is keen to ensure that a strong academic core is made available to all pupils at the

College and said: "I am concerned above all with the achievement of each child's academic potential. However, the starting point for this is to establish every child's potential. Only then can we work with child and parents to ensure that every pupil

knows what to aim for and how these goals can be achieved."

Students in Years 7 and 8 in the Prep School and throughout Years 9-13 in the Senior School are being issued with a set of 'challenge grades' – one for each subject. Mr Green explained: "The grades are a measure of potential and what we think a child is capable of achieving if they work hard. Challenge grades will be ambitious but realistic."



## AROUND THE HOUSES

### Dressed in all their glory

STAFF and students in Walled Garden West have been striding out to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Funds from the annual sponsored walk were swelled by other fundraising efforts which should see a total for the term of more than £1,000 for the charity.

The walk departed (as usual) soon after the Remembrance Service finished on 10 November.

The walkers were once again extremely fortunate with the weather and, although the ground was wet, the conditions meant everyone was able to display their finest fancy dress costumes.

With hot drinks, soup and a roll to fortify them, more than 50 people of all ages, plus six dogs, left the College soon after 1pm and all returned for hotdogs and chocolate cake some two hours later.

The walk raised more than £350 for Macmillan Cancer Support and thanks go to all those who took part, the generous sponsors and all those who provided food before and afterwards.

As well as taking part in the traditional Remembrance Day walk, WGW staff have been raising money for Macmillan in other ways.



BOARDERS from Walled Garden West enjoyed a fascinating and fun day out at the Tower of London. Housemaster Matthew Pitteway said: "We managed to get round to virtually all the exhibitions and saw all of the sights. The Crown Jewels were obviously awe inspiring but the torture chambers proved very popular as well..."

Clive and Gill Thorpe were instrumental in organising the logistics and ensured the trip ran like clockwork. All

students had a pack to read in advance and a map to guide them around – so no excuses for getting lost!

The group had a second chance to visit the sights of the city – and to enjoy the festive lights on Oxford Street – as well as getting in some Christmas shopping before the end of term.

Thanks go to parents Mr and Mrs Harte who donated free tickets which helped both trips to take place. The boys are very grateful!

### Station is reborn

BOYS in Walled Garden East are very proud of how Charlie Jeffery's mum, Sarah Hunt-Jeffery, has been busy roping in her friends and colleagues in a major renovation of Old Selham Station.

Angie Paxton said: "We are so proud of how she has taken on such a massive project! I think this is an amazing example of what one woman can do when she sets her mind to it – and a great example to her son and the rest of our boys."

The restoration has included setting up beehives on the old station platform and the House was delighted to receive a jar of home-made honey, complete with a label reading: "Honey from the wild bees at Selham station".

Selham station served the village of Selham, on the Pulborough to Midhurst line. It opened in 1872 but was closed to passenger services in 1955 and in its entirety in 1963.



### Home from home for boarders

THE houseparents in Walled Garden East have been trying to fight off the winter blues by bringing a taste of their native South Africa to the students.

Steve and Angie Paxton organised a hugely popular South African evening, with delights such as Biltong, Dry Wors and Stukkies (small strips of meat). Nik Naks chips – or as we English call them, crisps – are made from corn instead of potatoes and the boys loved tucking into these more unusual tasty treats.

There is a huge diversity of boys in the boarding house, including a number of German boys who are all fantastic hockey players – something Mr Paxton is delighted about!

He paid tribute to all his boys, especially the Lower Sixth students, most of whom are house prefects, whom he said had been a great help in the boarding house.

Special mention goes to Harry Collins (Head of House), Christian Disley-May (Deputy Head of House), AJ Fry, Hugo Dean, Matt Scott, Ronny Harrison and the

newest member of the house, John Lewis.

Mr Paxton said: "We are very proud of our Year 12 boys, they help out with many duties in the boarding house and are an example to the younger boys."

There has been a large intake of Year 9s this year and Mr Paxton said: "We look forward to helping them grow and develop through their GCSEs and to Sixth Form."

The boys love the Paxton family pets – namely Tara (the whippet), Fifi and Tinkerbell ('sausage dogs'). Socks, their very loving kitty-cat and, of course Rex, the African Grey.

Mrs Paxton said: "It's so wonderful to see a young lad, who might be feeling a bit homesick and missing their own pets, hugging Tara or Fifi."

Mr Paxton added: "We are firm but fair and love our time with the boys. We create a caring and loving environment, but make sure that rules are adhered to."

## AROUND THE HOUSES

## IN BRIEF

### Singing kick-starts the week ahead

STUDENTS and staff at Seaford College have found a new way to shake off that 'Monday morning' feeling.

Headmaster John Green has introduced a new weekly all-school hymn practice which has set the school buzzing with the sound of music.

Mr Green said: "It is well known that singing is good for the soul and lifts your spirits. Changing the structure of the school week to incorporate the weekly hymn practice has seen everyone start the week humming new hymns with enthusiasm and a smile on their faces."

The College has an excellent reputation for its music school, which has produced singers such as top international baritone Matthew Rose and, more recently, the Brit Awards Best Newcomer for 2013, Tom Odell.

### Choristers happy to help charity

SEAFORD College Chapel Choir has helped to raise vital funds for the charity 4SIGHT, the Sussex-based charity which supports blind and partially-sighted people.

The choir performed a mix of traditional and modern music in a concert at the St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham. Students sang a range of pieces – and gave the audience plenty of opportunity to join in.

The audience also had the chance to chat to the choristers about the College and their music following the concert, over coffee and mince pies.

All money raised from the evening went directly to 4SIGHT, as both the choir and church provided their services for free.

### Kitchen cleans up with inspectors

SEAFORD College kitchen has been given full marks in the local council's Scores on the Doors scheme.

Inspectors from Chichester District Council and the Food Standards Agency visited the school as part of their routine checks on cleanliness and hygiene – as well as ensuring the catering team's documentation is up to date.

The College gained five stars – the highest accolade possible.

The kitchens also retained their five-star rating for food hygiene following an inspection on 14 November.

Chef Cavill Perrin said: "Naturally we were thrilled to receive five stars following the inspection – although not surprised as we have an excellent team here."



BONDING: Sarah Lewis soon makes friends

### Pair arrive bearing gifts for children

TWO members of staff from Seaford College Prep School have spent time helping teachers and children at the YASAH and YACAN Children's Homes in Sumatra, Indonesia.

Sarah Page set up BEATS – British Earthquake And Tsunami Support – following the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004.

Now, nearing ten years old, the charity is supported by numerous individual staff and families at Seaford College – some sponsoring teachers, others sponsoring the children.

Sarah, who teaches music, RE and PSHCE, together with Year 5 teacher Sarah Lewis, spent time at both orphanages in the summer, when Mrs Lewis, who helped with teaching English to the children, was invited to cut a ribbon to mark the ceremonial opening of two new classrooms paid for by BEATS.

YASAH Children's Home and School is a

registered school with about 160 pupils, from kindergarten to 18 years old. The Prep School sponsors the Sport teachers there and Ronardo Barus, Head of Sport at YASAH School, was thrilled to see his photo in a previous edition of Park Life.

The two Sarahs presented YASAH with various gifts from Seaford College: Science equipment given by the Science department at Seaford and teddies given by children and staff in the Prep School.

Sarah Page, chair of BEATS, returned to YASAH during the October half term with a sixth-former from Bishop Luffa School who wanted to help teach sport there.

He had raised money for sport and other equipment for the school. Mrs Page is very much hoping that older pupils from Seaford College will follow his example and help YASAH through BEATS – and maybe visit them too.



FAB LAB: Sarah Page with the science equipment provided by Seaford College





## England rugby star has plenty of pointers for Seaford's young players

SEAFORD College was thrilled to welcome the Harlequins and England rugby star Rob Buchanan, who undertook a training session with the 1st XV rugby team.

The session focused on forward play, close contact work, protecting the ball, presentation of the ball and some scrummaging.

Each pupil gained individual feedback to assist in all areas of their play and at the end of the session the pupils came away having learnt some tricks of the trade, which they will be looking to put into use in future matches!

Rob made his senior starting debut for Harlequins during the Aviva Premiership clash with Saracens at Wembley Stadium in 2012.

The hooker has represented England at U16, U18 and U20 level and was among the stand out players in the 2011 Junior World Cup final against the Junior All-Blacks. Rob also toured with England's senior team to Argentina in the summer of 2013.

The school's Performance Development Group members were able to question Rob and

gain an insight into what it takes to become a professional sportsman.

He talked about fitness, skills, diet, training, role models and the mentality of sports people.

Headmaster John Green said: "We hope to introduce more top sporting personalities to Seaford College – and our students – in the coming months."



## Holly's queen of the surf

SEAFORD College student Holly Bassett is surfing her way to international success, having competed and won a ladies' national title – at the age of just 15.

Holly, from West Wittering, has qualified for the International Surfing Association World Championships in Nicaragua, after taking the British women's paddlesurfing title.

Paddlesurfing, which originates from Hawaii, is a form of surfing which allows competitors to 'paddle' longer distances than with conventional surfing. Holly has been practising the sport since 2009 although she started windsurfing aged just two and a half – before she could even swim!

Such is her dedication that Holly trains all year round – whatever the weather.

Last winter, she could be found in the water at just 3C – "It was pretty cold!" she said.

The Year 10 student has been placed well in previous competitions in the junior section of the British Stand Up Paddlesurf Association's National Championships but has never before

made it through into the final heats of the ladies.

The SUP event draws competitors from all over the UK with divisions for men, ladies and juniors.

They have to compete in surf and are judged by a panel of trained ISA judges for wave riding style, wave selection and radical moves.

Holly was determined to win a place in the top three in the women's division at Watergate Bay, Cornwall, this year – but never expected to win it!

### Shocked to win

She said: "The heats each last 20 minutes, so it is crucial to make the most of the waves which come through in the style of riding the judges are looking for.

"The conditions were very hard and it was almost pot luck whether I got on the right wave and where it took me. I was really shocked when I got first because I was thinking third, maybe pushing second. To win was a big surprise!"

Her proud father Simon Bassett said:

"At the prize giving we were surprised as the names were read out. Not only had Holly won the Junior U16 girls event but she had won the women's title and was awarded the Watergate Bay Water Women award for 2013.

"It was very emotional to realise we now have a British champion in the family!"

Holly joined Seaford College in April last year and is now studying for GCSEs in Maths, English, Science, French, Art, DT and Geography.

Her 10-year old sister Daisy, who is now in her second year at Seaford College Prep School, also surfs and windsurfs.

Stand Up Paddlesurfing (SUP) is regarded as one of the UK's fastest-growing watersports and there is a strong SUP scene in West Wittering, where Holly trains with her father Simon.

As well as being a prizewinning paddlesurfer, Holly is a good swimmer and windsurfer. She also plays acoustic guitar and sings and has played in a local band called – appropriately – The Swell.

## Boys deliver great result in elite company

NERVES were more than a tad taut for Seaford's first-ever appearance in the prestigious Haileybury Sixes Tournament – particularly as there were some very big schools in attendance.

But the fear was misplaced, as the boys pulled out all the stops to be declared runners-up after some exciting and challenging hockey.

The Seaford team was led by recent old boy Jamie Whitehouse, with seven full-time boarders making up the eight who travelled to Haileybury in October.

The tournament was structured – games being played 15 minutes one way – and Seaford was drawn in the same pool as Aldenham, Haileybury, Canford and St Edwards. The other contenders were Framlingham, Tonbridge, Charterhouse, Felsted and St Albans.

In the first match, against Aldenham, Seaford won 5-0, and in the second, against St Edwards, it was a different

story and Seaford drew 2-2, before getting back their winning ways with a close 4-3 win over the hosts, Haileybury, in the third match.

The last pool game was to decide who would be 1st or 2nd in the pool and so Seaford piled on the pressure to win 5-0 against Canford to win pool A, playing their semi-final against 2nd in pool B – Felsted.

The semi-final was a close game and Seaford finally won 2-0 thanks to goals from Geyer and Whitehouse. In the final, the team just ran out of legs and lost 1-4 to a very good St Edwards team that were worthy winners of the tournament.

The top goal scorer title was shared between Geyer and Whitehouse and the school can be proud that, at its first attempt at this tournament, against much bigger schools, they got to the final and were placed second out of 10 schools.



RUNNERS-UP: Team delighted with their debut performance

## Paris trip sets team up nicely for a season to savour



A PRE-season tour to Paris got the Seaford College girls' hockey team off to a flying start.

The team spent five days in the French capital, where they played four games against French regional teams and a PSG club team.

A full day at Euro Disney was one of the highlights of the tour as well as playing and training next to the PSG football team.

This was an outstanding tour and, on their return, the girls took part in the Isle of Wight sevens tournament, where they came out as winners – another first for the College!

The girls all agreed that the pre-season tour had put them one step ahead of the opposition.

The team went on to play a further 16 fixtures in what was a very busy term and did exceptionally well in the REED'S Tournament where they came third by beating teams like Churchers and Sevenoaks and drawing with City of London Freeman's School.

The team's winning percentage, overall, was around 65 per cent.

When set against the success of much bigger schools than Seaford, this is an impressive score

and is due primarily to the effort and dedication of the players – something coach Steve Paxton has applauded.

He said: "The players were led exceptionally well throughout the term, jointly captained by Maddy Wright and Tara Jackson, and congratulations should go to them all on a very successful season.

"The team is very young and will only lose two players from the squad next year, so next year's season also looks very exciting!"

As part of the College's International Scholarship programme, a scout from the University of Massachusetts, Carla Tagliente, came to an exhibition match in which six of the Seaford girls were taking part.

More of our girls were put on their "ones to watch" list, showing beyond doubt that this is proving to be a brilliant programme for both current and future pupils, offering excellent opportunities.

Mr Paxton said: "Well done and thank you to all the players, coaches and parents this season and a big thank you to Emma Teague for all the support she has given us over the term."

ONE STEP AHEAD: A pre-season trip to Paris helped to give Seaford's hockey team the edge