

Alumni Newsletter No 6: December 2020



We hope this Newsletter finds you all safe and well. It was wonderful to start the new academic year with staff and students returning to classrooms after months of online learning. Everyone has now adapted to the new regimes and despite the restrictions these bring, students have recorded how happy they are to be back with face-to-face learning and to have the opportunity to see their friends again. The global Covid pandemic has had a huge impact on everyone but in the words of the inspirational Captain Sir Tom Moore “We will get through this and come out of it stronger, more united and ready to face any challenge together”. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and, with the latest vaccine approval news just in, an optimistic New Year.

The Homewood Alumni Team



Cambridge dreams come true for Isabel



After successfully campaigning against the infamous algorithm and securing her dream place to study English at Cambridge, 2020 alumna Isabel Burns was determined to take full advantage of being an undergraduate despite things being different.

Isabel had the privilege of speaking in the same Cambridge Union debate as the Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong, opposing the motion: ‘This House believes that free speech is dead’, an experience which she described as ‘pretty cool’. She also had a short story shortlisted for the HG Wells Short Story Competition and this will now be published in an official anthology. Her verdict on uni life so far? “ Amazing.”

Graphic artists’ competition success



Homewood’s talented graphic artists once again triumphed in another prestigious national art challenge in the Summer. No fewer than five of our sixth form artists were shortlisted for the annual UCA ‘YouCreate’ challenge, which attracts hundreds of high quality entries from schools each year.

However, it was this striking interpretation of the contest’s theme of ‘Change’ by Victoria Hussey (2020 alumna), which secured a well-deserved third place in the final public vote. A clever modern twist on a classic Renaissance-style portrait.



Refer A Friend

We know that many of you are still in contact with friends that you made whilst at Homewood. We really want our Alumni Network to grow and thrive so please consider passing on the link below to our sign-up page so that they can join the network too.

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/homewood>

End of a PE Teaching Era at Homewood

This Summer saw a long and happy family teaching era come to an end when, after 13 years in Homewood's PE department, Pete Sparks moved on to a new teaching post in Ashford. Pete started as a pupil in Year 7 in 1994, later returning as a teacher in 2007 to follow in the footsteps of his father, Nick Sparks. Pete described the special privilege he felt being able to teach alongside his father before his retirement in 2014 after 30 years of teaching. Pete said: "It will be very strange not to drive to Homewood every day and to end my family's association with the school. Homewood will always be a special place for me". Pete is pictured with his father on Nick's last day before retirement. We wish Pete every success in his new role.



Were you taught by either Pete or Nick Sparks? Do you have a fond memory to share? Contact us at alumni@homewood.kent.sch.uk



Students help Tenterden Town Council to shape new development plans



A youth survey, devised and conducted by a group of Homewood sixth formers, is set to provide a significant contribution to Tenterden town's long-term planning for the development of the town centre. Students from Year 12 and 13 who are studying for the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) devised their survey after connecting with Tenterden's new Town Centre and Tourism Co-ordinator, Keli Nolan-Lyons, to hear about the town council's current regeneration plans and the aspiration to improve its appeal to a younger audience. The survey findings will be presented at the next virtual Town Council meeting in January 2021. Keep an eye on our website for more news on this collaboration.

Remembering Former Head of PE Keith Kitney

We are sad to report the death of Keith Kitney who taught at Homewood throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's. He will be remembered with much

affection by both former students and staff. Keith is pictured here as a Homewood student (front row, far right) with his fellow male prefects (circa 1965). Keith went on to teach for many years at Homewood and became Head of PE. He also played for and managed squads at Tenterden FC and the Kent Schools' FA U19s.



Alumni Video - Springboard to Success

We are delighted to have featured 12 of our multi-talented alumni in our latest [Youtube video 'Springboard to Success'](#) that was launched at our recent virtual Sixth Form Open Event.



Illustrating how our former students are helping to shape the future in their careers provides relevance and inspiration to both our current and prospective students.

Do you have a story to tell that would inspire our students? We would love to hear from you.

Keep up with all Homewood's news

You can always keep up with the latest from Homewood via our [website](#), and by following us on [Twitter](#) and via our [Facebook](#) page