



SEDBERGH
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525



CREATIVE ARTS REPORT

27th November - 15th December



@SedberghMusic @SedberghDrama @ArtSedbergh @SedberghDigital

MUSIC



It really is a most wonderful time of the year for any Music department, when pupils and staff alike have a very busy but immensely fulfilling schedule. As such, our musicians have been at the forefront of some quite wonderful events over the past few weeks.

Although more about 'Grease' will feature in the Drama page of this report, Harry (P, Y13) and Bruno (P, Y12) both deserve a mention for being part of the excellent pit band for the production. Alongside the cast, they played a hugely important role in bringing the incredibly fun and energetic music to life as part of a highly successful run in the Brewery Arts Centre.



Our Chapel Choir are a particularly prominent part of school life at Christmas, and season really began with the annual performance of 'Ceremony of Carols' in Chapel on 8th December. This unique work by Benjamin Britten really highlights the mystery and timelessness of the season, not least through the harp accompaniment - provided once more by Annakate Pearson. The music is often very challenging to sing, but Chapel Choir were on form. One audience member - an attendee for several years - remarked that he thought it was amongst the very best.



Two days later, we had the first carol service, which is for parents and guests of the school. Just before this, though, the choir had the chance to enjoy each other's fine company for a slap-up meal at the Highwayman Inn. We enjoyed speeches and traditional awards (many of the more humorous nature!) from Mr Seymour as well as the Head of Choir and Head Chorister, and a number of our senior choristers received the choir colours for service to the choir. This ensured that the choir were in buoyant mood for the carol service, which is based on the nine lessons and carol format, and included music by Lauridsen, Tavener, Poston amongst others. We all felt incredibly proud of the choir.



Our orchestra and Big Band will have their own big occasions next term, what with the 'Jazz & Swing' evening and Wilson Run concerts in March, but they too sneaked in a fun performance of some Christmas music to the school, just as the holiday beckons.

Our musicians can all look back on 2023 with tremendous pride. It has been absolutely packed full of events, and whether they they were exciting, powerful, moving or just pure fun, they have all been deeply satisfying. From Mr A, Miss P and Mr S, thank you to all - Happy Christmas and here's to 2024!

Upcoming Events

ART



Art for the Community: This project is an opportunity for the pupils to develop their leadership and creative skills. The pupils had two weeks in which to create a piece to attempt to brighten up the main street and with a community focus. The art work is available to view in Browns of Sedbergh and will be on display for the festive period. The window is much appreciated by the community so much so that the local accountants Jackson and Graham also asked the year 12 pupils to decorate their window also. The pupils that particularly stood out for endeavour were Sophia (Y12, R), Tilly (Y12, C) and Hattie (Y12, C).

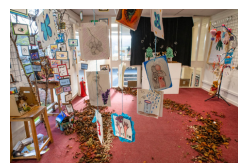
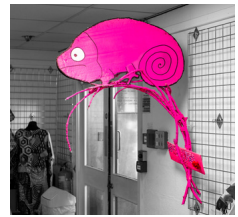


The Big Draw:

Robertson House- Highly commended accolade.

Whilst Winder House win the accolade of the 'Pupils Choice' as judged by the pupils during the 2 nights of exhibition private views. Evans House won by a country mile, winning the Valentine Cup for the year in memory of Martin Valentine.

The department are thrilled with the inventiveness and the quality of the work that the pupils have created collaboratively this year in response to year's theme 'Drawing with the senses', with 700 individual pieces of work on display. Inclusivity was in abundance. Counting all the submissions was a hefty task nonetheless worthwhile. We are delighted that all pupils have visited an exhibition this year regardless of whether they opt to study art/DM/photography, and we are proud that we have two schools (here and the prep school) exhibiting side by side in the gallery. This is what makes the exhibition particularly special. It is also about building confidence that all pupils can make their ideas into a reality and allows for that notion to be portrayed through the visual arts. Bringing an idea from the head to life is a strong concept indeed.



David (Y11, S)

Artists of the week



Chris (Y11, P)

Upcoming Events

End of Term - The Big Draw Exhibition

Art department

DIGITAL MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY



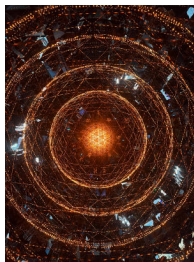
On the 4th December, Year 10 Photography and Art pupils braved the wintery snow and rain to explore the 200 year old camera obscura and investigate portraits spanning more than 400 years of history in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The day started with a visit to the Edinburgh World of Illusions where pupils experimented with long exposure photographs to capture the bright colours and distorted shapes. An excellent way to inspire creativity for the rest of the day, the pupils produced a fantastic range of low light photography ready for editing when they returned to school. The visit culminated with seeing the camera obscura in action at the top of the museum as well as the views across Edinburgh from the balcony. Looking down below to photograph the other half of the trip was a particular highlight.

From the camera obscura, the pupils then were given a whistle-stop tour of the main sights of Edinburgh whilst practising their urban street photography. A particular highlight was the visit to Greyfriars Kirkyard where the pupils searched for headstones that inspired the names of well-loved characters from the Harry Potter Series for example McGonagall. Additionally the pupils learnt about the loyalty of a famous Scottish Skye terrier, Bobby, which warmed their hearts and minds. We passed the Elephant Café and imagined JK Rowling herself sat there writing in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle and the Kirkyard. Whilst the hilly terrain of Edinburgh makes for good exercise it also creates surprising viewpoints to capture different perspectives.

In the afternoon we stepped back inside to tour the wide range of artwork in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The diversity of portraits and photographs presented many different viewpoints, artistic imagination and angles on life which created a memorable experience to take back to inspire the pupils.

As night drew in, we ventured out once more to photograph the Christmas lights and their reflections. The bustling Christmas markets and fairground rides created a dramatic backdrop to some night photography. This created a dramatic end to the trip as the fantastic lights and illusions at the camera obscura that morning.

A magical inspiration day will be remembered and the class room that the city provided for the day was greatly appreciated.



Chiyo (Y11, C)

Digital Creator of the week



Abi (Y13, L)

Upcoming Events

End of Term - The Big Draw Exhibition

Art department

DRAMA



@SedberghDrama



Following the end of the latest school production, here are a few reflections on the show itself, and the process of bringing it to fruition.

I am once again so immensely proud of the whole company, for a variety of reasons. In part, it's their responses to the teaching and direction that they receive, and it is also for the amazing bonding exercise that an activity like this has had on a group of people assembled across ages, gender and abilities.

It is hard to communicate all the elements of the production experience, that is sampled by all the participants, over the whole term period. It is not simply about the week of performance or the fun of dressing up, dancing and singing. It also requires the co-operation of the whole school, for which I am always extremely grateful.

"Grease", being a well-known and loved show was selected in order to proactively deliver a special buzz amongst students. This it did, and it was sustained all the way through to the last night.

There can be no doubt that the show was a hit with participants and audience members alike. The success of any such live production can be put down to the input, commitment and desire to make it work, of those on the stage, and those behind the scenes bringing the performers and the stage to life.

Discipline

Performing and entertaining is a serious business which any professional actor, singer or entertainer of any kind will confirm. The best possess iron discipline and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Our students learn to perform, they learn from the performance, and they learn as they perform. They understand and accept too that the as well as being fun and engaging, the creative process can drag, with a lot of waiting around and repetition, that is absolutely necessary to the outcome. The best performers also respect and are gracious to others, regardless of status. Egos of course exist, but the best appreciate that all the players are intrinsic to the production's overall success.

Inevitably, the audition process can throw up disappointments, but responses to setbacks offer one of many life skills that theatre and drama

performance give.

Teamwork and Life skills

Teamwork, respect, personal discipline are just the start. Add in vocal expression, physical strength, cultural awareness, confidence building, presentation skills – a performance experience of this type gives all the cast members a huge sample of the all round development skills that Drama GCSE and A Level students already know and experience.

The Brewery

With particular reference to the annual Michaelmas show, the contribution that the use of The Brewery gives is almost immeasurable. Being in and working on the show is a major lift and achievement for all cast members. To be able to do it in a real, professional theatre brings an additional motivational dimension to the experience. The part that Brewery staff themselves play goes a long way to making it a success, and the students get a genuine sense of the professionalism required in performing.

In summary

Once again, I am indebted to all staff, and not just those who directly contributed to the production and logistics processes. I also appreciate so much, the role that the wider school has to play and flexibility of all teaching, Works, catering and house staff throughout the term, during rehearsals and other disruptions to lessons and other activities. It's all part of the teamwork required.

Any feedback you can glean from colleagues or pupils would be greatly received, but most importantly, I hope you benefit from the positivity that this show and others have brought. The great thing about theatre and performance generally, is that they are all winners!

Thanks for listening.

Cathy Want

Upcoming Events

