



The Pinnacle

*'You only get one life.
It's actually your duty to
live it as fully as possible.'*



Princethorpe
College

Issue 26 | Summer 2019

Showcasing exceptional work
by pupils from Princethorpe
College, Crackley Hall School
and Crescent School.





As the summer approaches and we stock up on books to read (hopefully in the sunshine and near glinting water), I am reminded of a trilogy I have recently read and enjoyed by Jojo Moyes called *Me Before You*, *After You* and *Still Me*. The characters are wonderfully well written and the narrative is utterly absorbing. Whilst the main plotline of the first novel is devastating and heart breaking, the message is immensely life affirming: "You only get one life. It's actually your duty to live it as fully as possible."

Our students are so fortunate in the opportunities they are given: not only are they stretched academically, they are also encouraged

to keep physically and emotionally healthy. They can learn to play musical instruments, to sing, to act, to perform and to contribute to debates. They are coached as teams and mentored as individuals. They work with their hands to design and make and work with their imaginations to solve problems and to create. The compulsion to live fully is tangible at Princethorpe and I hope the students can step back once in a while and appreciate what they have here. It's so easy to choose a screen over real life, to engage in a virtual conversation rather than a real one and to watch nature on TV rather than to get out there and walk through it. In these long summer days, let's turn the phone off, get out in the fresh air with family and friends and live in the moment as fully as possible. It's our duty.

I do not recall ever having featured the same student's work on the front cover more than once, but this time I felt compelled. Helena Lintott has produced another breath-taking piece of A-level Art. She has clearly grown as an artist since her study of Samson and Delilah by Peter Paul Rubens. In this most recent painting, she has applied her skills to execute an original piece. I am sure you will agree that her work makes a striking front cover for this issue. I think it's wonderful. We wish you well as you leave Princethorpe, Helena, and sincerely hope that you will continue to paint.

As always, there are pages and pages of excellent work in this issue from across an expanding Foundation. It's always a pleasure and a privilege to bring everything together in one place and to see the thoughtful work you have all been doing. Well done everyone.

Thanks go to: staff at Princethorpe College; staff at Crackley Hall School (co-ordinated by Cat Hardwick); staff at The Crescent (co-ordinated by Sarah Webb); the Marketing Team; photography by Helen Stephenson and designed by Debbie at Dam Design Creative.

SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE!

HELEN PASCOE-WILLIAMS

Editor & Co-ordinator of the da Vinci Programme



Helena Lintott
UPPER SIXTH



VOYAGE into the WORLD of Atoms



It is fitting that Year 11 scholar, Lauren Mason, winner of the girls' da Vinci shield, STEM student and embodiment of a Renaissance girl, has secured herself a week's work experience in July at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

Dedicated to the advancement of human knowledge, CERN provides a unique range of particle accelerator facilities to researchers to advance the boundaries of human knowledge. The Laboratory, established in 1954, has become a prime example of international collaboration and now, one of our very own Princethorpians will be helping to uncover what the universe is made of and how it works.

During her time at CERN, Lauren will job shadow, glimpsing world class physicists and engineers use the world's largest and complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter – fundamental particles.

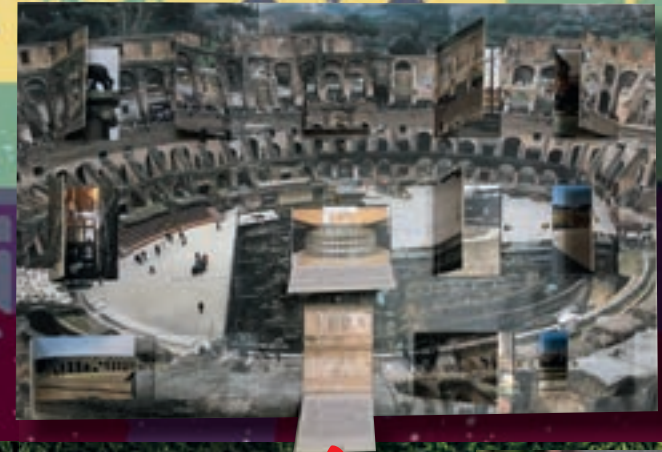
We wish Lauren all the very best on her exciting voyage to the CERN laboratory on the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva and we look forward to hearing all about it when she gets back. This is sure to be a remarkable experience for an outstanding student!



Lauren Mason
YEAR 11

WONDERS OF ITALY

Year 9 pupil, Tom Dodsley, has created a wonderful independent project following a visit to Italy to experience Rome, Naples and the ruins of Pompeii. Here you can see the Colosseum, with windows opening to show more details and other sites in Rome. A superb project Tom, well done!



Football Fever

The widespread coverage and high drama of the FIFA Women's

World Cup has sparked football fever across the UK.

Closer to home, our very own Year 9 athlete, Molly Wincott-Thomas, has had a superb year of sport. Here she reflects on her achievements so far:



"I've had a successful year of sport this year, but I am most proud of getting into the ISA England National Squad. The trials were held at Bisham Abbey which had amazing facilities and during the trial I played in centre midfield for the Midlands / North team and felt that I controlled the game and played well. Obviously it was amazing that this was recognised by the selectors and then to be fast tracked straight in the national squad made me smile a lot. I am also proud of my in-school sporting achievements, particularly athletics."

An eye for an eye?

Florine Fuchss wrote a superb response to a 12-mark question in her recent end of Year 9 Religious Studies exam. Her answer shows a clear understanding of the issue, strong knowledge of different Christian perspectives and is thoughtfully expressed. This was especially impressive when completed under exam conditions and with GCSE style questions. No wonder she achieved a superb 93% overall in her exam!

HERE ARE FLORINE'S ANSWERS:

'If you take someone's life, you deserve to have yours taken.' Discuss.

The Catholic Church believes that in some cases Capital Punishment could, possibly, be allowed when innocent people cannot be protected in any other way. However not all Christians agree with that. Many Christians believe that Jesus taught forgiveness, love and kindness. That means a criminal who has committed murder should get punished for example by losing their freedom by going to prison, but should not be killed.

Some Christians in fact believe capital punishment is a form of murder because it says in one of the Ten Commandments, 'Do not kill'.

Some Christians disagree. They say the death penalty is deserved sometimes. They believe in retribution, 'an eye for an eye', as it says in the Old Testament. If you take someone's else's life, yours should be taken too.



Florine Fuchss
YEAR 9

They may also agree with the statement because why should we pay taxes to keep murderers alive? However, most Christians believe that killing a criminal will not bring justice to a victim's family because killing someone else does not bring back your loved one.

My conclusion is that I do not agree with the statement. This is because capital punishment is also murder. Who gave the government the right to kill criminal if he/she could be reformed. God can change anyone's soul, no matter how evil they are.

Do you agree or disagree with Florine about capital punishment? Write to the Pinnacle to share your views!

MAGICAL MATHS

Earlier this term, a group of Year 10 and 11 pupils set off for a day of Maths Inspiration at the Mathematics Institute, Warwick University. Here is Izzy Nelson's account of the experience:

Following a welcoming speech by Dr Emily Grossman, our group began with an 'introduction to game theory', with some mind games that we had to play and try to win, later looking into depth at the logical ways to win every time. This included solutions to commonly known problems such as the Prisoner's Dilemma.

The next workshop for our group was a look into SynBio: an introduction and ethical discussion on synthetic biology. This involved the seemingly futuristic idea of modifying and tampering with DNA in animals and plants to help with real life situations. This could include anything from bringing back the woolly mammoth to creating glow-in-the-dark plants to replace street lights. We had some interesting ethical arguments where each individual was able to express the reasons behind their opinion on whether each creation was a good or bad idea. It really allowed us to see the different views of others our age on scenarios that could become real in the near future.

Our final workshop after lunch was on Japanese grid puzzles where we spent the session learning how to solve a nonogram – similar to Sudoku but more time consuming and puzzling! The other group took part in a workshop called 'Magical Maths' where they learnt 'magic tricks' that used complex Maths. This included a 'mind reading' trick where mathematician, Ben Sparks, asked Carys to think of one of the shapes shown on the board and say it out loud. A video then played, giving the same shape that she had chosen. Carys was successful with this magical mind reading a number of times.

Overall, the whole day was a fun and interactive experience with the experts from the University of Warwick that each of us thoroughly enjoyed.



Izzy Nelson
YEAR 10

This season has been fast a furious with the term being so short and events coming up quickly. Gaining Warwickshire selection for the Combined Events was great, but it didn't match the events at Alexander Stadium. We went there for the Midlands ISA and I came 2nd in the long jump, won the 100m and won the relay for Princethorpe. Three weeks later I was back to the Nationals where I represented the Midlands coming 4th in 100m and 2nd in the relay with the Princethorpe Year 9 girls team. The facilities are amazing and knowing that both events may not be there again in the future due to the Commonwealth Games facility development programme made it even more special.

In the long term though, I want to be a footballer, that's my passion. I recently took part in the ISFA U15 Girls Regional Representative Football Festival and my team won the tournament! I hope this might mean that I can trial for the national team. Life is so busy and there is so much to do, but I just love it. I'm really lucky that my parents are so supportive and ferry me around everywhere. I would not be able to do half as much if it wasn't for their commitment and support'.

MOLLY WINCOTT-THOMAS' SPORTING YEAR 2018/19:

FOOTBALL

Rugby Town: Cup winners and 3rd in the league
Leicester City FC: League winners and scouted by RTC

Birmingham City (tier 1 U16): successful after 3 trials and have been invited to 6 week trial even though I am U14

ISFA Girls: played for the Midlands/ North in the regional festival and selected to the ISFA National squad.

ATHLETICS

4th in Warwickshire at Combined Events
1st in the Midlands ISA at 100m, relay and 2nd at Long Jump
4th in the 100m and 2nd in the Relay at Nationals ISA.

NETBALL

2nd in National ISA

HOCKEY

Unbeaten for Princethorpe this season.

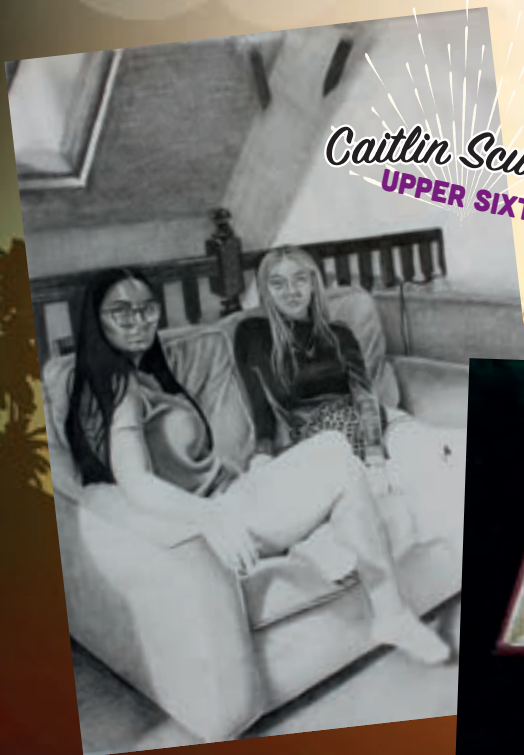


Molly Wincott-Thomas
YEAR 9

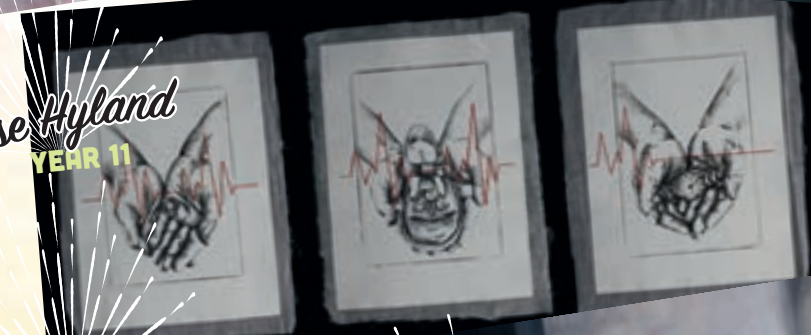


AMAZING Art

Following our annual Summer Art, Photography and Design Show, here is a small sample of the superb work this year's GCSE and A-level pupils have produced. Congratulations everyone, an outstanding display.



Elyse Hyland
YEAR 11



Araminta Rennie-Gaskin
LOWER SIXTH



Georgia Glasspool
UPPER SIXTH



Damien Cowie
YEAR 11



Y9
Ben Dyle
selected for
Oxfordshire U14

Y7
Oscar
Reynolds
selected for
Warwickshire
County U12

Y10
Archie
Houghton
selected for
Northamptonshire
County U15

Y8
James
Hawkins
selected for
Warwickshire
County U13

Y8
Tilly
Houghton
selected for
Northamptonshire
County U13

Y7
Georgia
Dowling
selected for
Warwickshire
County U12



There is no game that better heralds the coming of summer: the clatter of wickets, the Howzat! and the thock of leather on willow. For a number of dedicated Princethorpe students, time spent in the nets and at long weekend fixtures has paid off and we celebrate their selection to play for county.

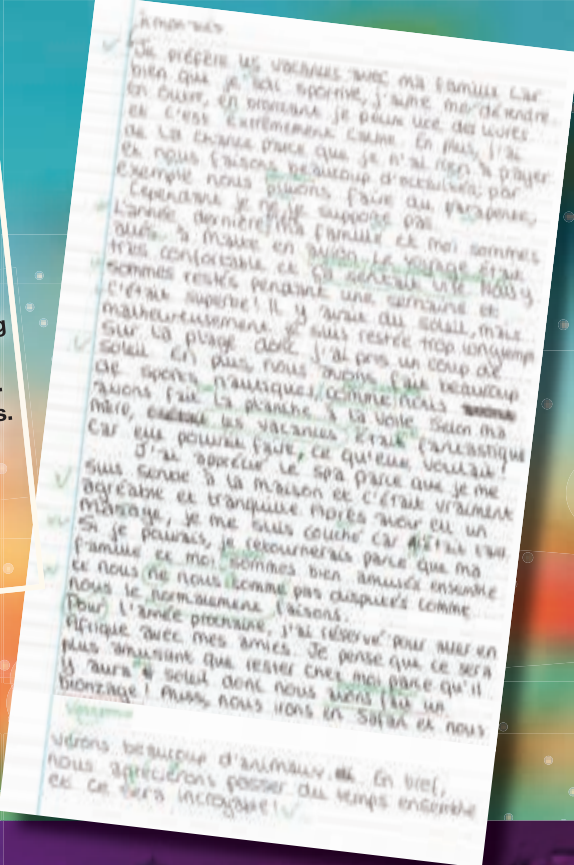
*Congratulations everyone!
This is a great achievement.*

Les Vacances

Year 10 MFL student, Lucy Gribben, completed an outstanding piece of writing whilst on holiday using at least three grammar points from the A-level course. Lucy wrote without referencing her notes. This is a superb standard of work for a GCSE student. Well done Lucy!



Lucy Gribben
YEAR 10



The True SPANISH EXPERIENCE

Sixteen brave Year 10 pupils gave up their half-term break to stay with host families in Cuenca and attend intensive Spanish classes at the True Spanish Experience (TSE).



The weather certainly helped – cold and frosty mornings soon gave way to bright, warm sunshine and temperatures in the high teens. Cuenca is Spain's third smallest city. Situated half-way between Madrid and Valencia, Cuenca is a mix of the old and new. The clifftop old town has UNESCO world heritage status and is famed for the 'casas colgadas', or hanging houses, which are home to the first abstract art museum in Spain. The cobbled streets, brightly coloured buildings and dramatic views over the gorges contrast with the modern new town down below. This provided Mr Darkes with plenty of photo opportunities!

"I feel more confident speaking Spanish and gained a greater understanding of the Spanish culture"

Every morning pupils made their way to lessons for 9:30. Some were lucky and were dropped off by their host family, others had to walk.

The group was split into two classes with 'profesores' Rafa and Pablo. Pupils learnt about aspects of Spanish culture and key vocabulary to help prepare for the afternoon 'experiencia'. For example, pupils practised language associated with Spanish food and mealtimes, devised their own recipes and then priced them up by visiting a greengrocers, butchers and fishmongers. Later that day they visited the Cuenca cookery school and made Spanish omelette and gazpacho manchego. Cookery tip – add mini cream-crackers to the soup and after 10 minutes they turn into pasta. ¡Qué rico!

Other highlights included a Flamenco lesson, an abstract art workshop, 'churros con chocolate' and a tour of the graffiti neighbourhood behind the school. All pupils received a certificate for their progress in Spanish and were complimented by TSE on their proficiency but also their positive attitudes to learning, especially during their own half-term holiday time.

"I can face new situations and know that I will be ok"

On the final day they visited the main sites in Madrid and got to see Picasso's famous 'Guernica' as well as doing a spot of sunbathing in the Retiro Park.

Mrs Parsons did all the hard work organising the trip and ran a weekly lunchtime club for a term to help prepare the pupils. Mr Darkes and Mrs Keenan accompanied them and both agree that it is one of the best groups they have ever taken away. Pupils were thrown in at the deep end and showed excellent coping skills not just with their Spanish but also settling in to a new environment with complete strangers. And they walked a lot more than normal – 50 miles on average for the week!

"It helps you to understand listening to Spanish better"

"It gives you a chance to practise speaking in real situations"

YOUNG POET Winner

Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Amelie Friess who has impressed local judges to win the Stratford Literary Festival's Felix Dennis Young Poets Competition.

Amelie wins a prize of £200 and will have her work published in the 2019 Young Poets Collection.

This is the first independent competition that Amelie has entered, although she has previously taken part in Radio 2's 500 words with her school when she was younger.

Amelie said, "I am immensely proud, I was really surprised when I heard. I take part in a writing workshop outside of school and we had been writing poetry. After reading one of my poems my teacher encouraged me to enter the competition so I did, but to be honest then I almost forgot about it. I really couldn't believe it when I won."

The Felix Dennis Young Poets Competition marks the legacy of poet Felix Dennis who was a great supporter of the Stratford Literary Festival. The competition is held in his memory and to encourage young writers and poets. Amelie entered the 11-16 years age group category.

English Teacher, Nicola Borman commented, "This is excellent news, Amelie is a fantastic writer and it is wonderful she has had her work recognised in such a well-regarded poetry competition."

It is wonderful she has had her work recognised in such a well-regarded poetry competition.

The Scream

What if I stood up right now?
What if I stood up and screamed?
I could scream, and scream, and scream.
No particular reason,
But if I can scream,
Why not just scream?
The scream would spread
And every person in the village would stop
What they're doing to listen to my
scream.
They'd turn to each other,
Shrug their shoulders
And know in their gut that
There was no reason for the scream,
But they'd listen anyway.



Amelie Friess
YEAR 9

READ
MORE...



IT'S NOT

Hard FOR Hardy

What a powerhouse fourteen-year-old Ben Hardy is proving to be. We already knew he was fast on the hockey pitch, but now he's storming to victory on the athletics track too. This Year 9 student is definitely one to watch. We asked Ben to summarise his term of athletics:

Despite a massive amount of rain and wind I have had a great term of athletics. I have competed in many events leading to me gaining a Warwickshire County place. My best times are in the 100m and 200m sprints. I have also been taking part in 4 x 100m relay teams. Back in May, I competed in the ISA Midlands at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. Although I placed second in the 100m with a time of 11.6 seconds, I did manage a first in 200m which led to me attending the ISA National event with the Princethorpe Junior Boys relay team. The 200m was a very close race from the start and ended up being a photo finish. For a while, I wasn't sure whether I had come first or second. Luckily for me, I was champion with a new National Record of 23.51 seconds and a qualifying time for the English Schools competition. As a result of my 100m and 200m times, I've also managed to qualify to compete in the England Athletics Outdoor Championships and the Midlands Championships in August.



A TASTE OF ANCIENT CHINA

Year 7 were treated to a wonderful cross cultural experience as International Masters Students from the University of

Warwick engaged them in a wonderful morning of Storytelling. The MA students are researching the benefits of Drama in Education and Year 7 impressed them with their imagination and engagement. The workshop included an interactive workshop and performance of the ancient Chinese story Lady White.



FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS

Year 10 student, Sebastian Dibb, scored 24/24 in a recent timed assessment for History. Sebastian demonstrated a very high level of thinking and his response is an example of excellence. Well done Sebastian.

Describe two problems faced by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in dealing with the Civil Rights protests during the 1960s.

[4 Marks]

The Washington March of 1963, organised by MLK, was a huge success. Over 200,000 black Americans and 50,000 white Americans turned up to the march. MLK delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech. The whole event was televised and it had a huge impact on the American people as the march caused no trouble at all not even any riot. After JFK's death, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill in 1964 as a result.

President Kennedy was re-elected by a very small margin - he was almost out of the job by the black vote. However, his presidency was equal then to JFK.

Another problem that Johnson faced were the race riots of 1968-69. There didn't take place in the race during many southern states, but in states in the North/West they were because of the bad relations between African American and white people. For example, the worst riot was in the Watts area, Los Angeles. 50,000 people rioted and 34 people ended up dying.



Sebastian Dibb
YEAR 10



FRENCH BOOK ANALYSIS

No et Moi

Analysez en quoi *No et Moi* est avant tout un roman sur la société moderne française.

Year 12 MFL student, Alys Hemmings, has written an impressive analysis of Delphine de Vigan's novel *No et Moi*, in which a young French girl's 'large-scale experiment against fate' does not go according to plan.

Tout d'abord, le roman, *No et Moi*, est principalement basé sur la société moderne française. Il y a beaucoup de références aux objets modernes, par exemple, 'Converse', 'Eastpak' et 'H&M' et cela prouve que le roman a un rapport avec la société moderne car cela utilise des phrases associées aux adolescents. Ensuite, l'auteur utilise des endroits vrais, comme 'la gare d'Austerlitz' et 'Ivry'. Alors le lecteur peut sentir que ces endroits sont pertinents dans leur vie parce que le livre a le sens d'être plus réel.

En outre, il y a aussi d'autres thèmes modernes qui sont liés à la société française. En premier, le problème des sans-abris est examiné. Dans le roman, No (un personnage principal) est SDF (sans domicile fixe). Elle habitait à la rue jusqu'à Lou l'ait trouvée. Ce thème reflète le problème croissant en France où il y a approximativement 140,000 personnes sans-abris. L'auteur utilise Lou pour exprimer son avis, 'On est capable de laisser des gens vivre au bord du périphérique.' C'est possible que ce soit le message principal du livre ce qui signifie que *No et Moi* est principalement un roman sur la société moderne française.

Mais au contraire, ce n'est pas simplement un livre associé à la société moderne française. Premièrement, c'est un Bildungsroman. Durant le roman, l'histoire suit le développement de Lou.




Alys Hemmings
LOWER SIXTH

FRENCH FILM REVIEW

À La Folie... Pas de Tout



A young woman who is in love with a married doctor becomes dangerous when her attempts to persuade him to leave his wife are unsuccessful. However, when things are seen from his point of view, the real situation becomes clear. Here is Year 10 MFL pupil, Will Hallard's review of the film:

Le film à propos des quel je vais écrire est appelé 'À la Folie... Pas de Tout'. C'est un film Roman et c'était fait en 2002. Le film parle d'une jeune femme s'appelle Angélique, et la personne qu'elle aime s'appelle Docteur Loïc le Garrec. Le film commence dans la perspective d'Angélique. Nous sommes amenés à croire que Loïc aussi aime Angélique, parce que Angélique envoie beaucoup de lettres et cadeaux à Loïc, et aussi elle parle de combien elle aime Loïc, mais dans la part deuxième du film, c'est dans la perspective de Loïc. Il n'aime pas Angélique, et elle est très triste. Elle essaie de se tuer, mais Loïc lui sauve la vie. Elle est dans l'hôpital avec Loïc et elle lui dit qu'elle l'aime. Il dit qu'il n'aime pas Angélique et elle frappe Loïc quand il descendait l'escalier. Elle va à un hôpital psychiatrique, et est guéri de sa maladie. Elle est autorisée à partir, mais après être partie, le concierge trouve toutes les pilules qu'elle devait prendre derrière un cabinet, et ils sont organisés dans la forme de Loïc!

Je recommanderais ce film à la plupart de gens parce que c'est très drôle et il y a une bonne tournure. Je donnerais 7/10 à ce film.



Will Hallard
YEAR 10

EASY VICTORY

Conor Fernández is a bright, hard-working Year 10 History student. Here he considers Dien Bien Phu's victory, writing from General Giap's perspective:

Q: Was Diên Biên Phủ an easy victory because the French made so many mistakes?

Giap: It's not as simple as that. We believed that in the French camp, French general staff and the military chiefs were well informed. They'd weighed up the pros and cons, and according to their forecasts, Diên Biên Phủ was impregnable. It has to be said that at the beginning of the autumn of '53, for example, when our political headquarters were planning our autumn and winter campaigns, there was no mention of Diên Biên Phủ. Why? Because, the Navarre plan didn't mention it either. They had a whole series of maneuvers planned.

For us, the problem was that Navarre wanted to retain the initiative whereas we wanted to seize it. There is a contradiction that exists in a war of aggression whereby you must disperse your forces to occupy a territory but rally your mobile forces for offensive action. We took advantage of this contradiction and forced Navarre to disperse his forces. That's how it all started. We ordered our troops to advance in several directions, directions of key importance to the enemy although their presence wasn't significant. So, the enemy had no choice but to disperse their troops. We sent divisions north, northwest, toward the center, towards Laos; other divisions went in other directions. So, to safeguard Laos and the northwest, Navarre had to parachute troops into Diên Biên Phủ, and that's what happened at Diên Biên Phủ. Before then, no one had heard of Diên Biên Phủ. But afterwards, well that's history, isn't it? French General Staff only planned to parachute in enough troops to stop us advancing on the northwest and Laos.

Little by little, they planned to transform Diên Biên Phủ into an enormous concentration camp, a fortified camp, the most powerful in Indochina. They planned to draw our forces, break us, crush us, but the opposite took place.



GENERAL GIAP



Conor Fernández
YEAR 10



On Wednesday 1 May, I was privileged enough to be selected to visit JLR with my parents. Expecting that my parents had it easy at work, my idea was, they talked a bit, but mostly they just sat around a big board room table eating Haribo's like in the Haribo advert. I was spellbound to find out none of that happened.

In the proximity of just one day I found out many things about JLR.

1. They don't sit around eating Haribo's.
2. Everyone contributes to the great outcome of JLR cars.
3. Everyone works extremely hard yet still loves their job and what they do.

My schedule was an average day at JLR, a fun day, and a great experience for me. They don't just put on an act for kids to see, they act like you're one of them. You get to visit new cars they have started to build, sit in new prototypes, hear about accident stories like a guy whacking their shin on a tow bar. You get to visit 3D printer rooms.

You get to find out how JLR have such a great reputation, how they have really good sponsorships, how they are trying every day to appeal to new customers, such as they have been working with Red Cross for 65 years and recently they launched a car which has a roof for a drone to fly out of, so the Red Cross workers can drive and track down people at the same time.

Over all I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to JLR, now having the knowledge of what my parents ACTUALLY do at JLR all day and discovering what I might like to do with my life in future, like a degree apprenticeship...



Bea Boakes
YEAR 7

Performance ARTS LEADERS



Year 10 Drama pupils Fern Boston and Jennifer Brown wish to thank their audience as they raised more than £80 for their chosen charity Child Bereavement UK.

The girls directed and produced a wonderful evening of entertainment with extracts from Dickens and Shakespeare and the main event *An Idiot's Guide to Haunting!*

We are so very proud of our lower school Drama Club and technical team for collaborating to put on a wonderful evening.



 The Princethorpe Foundation
www.princethorpe.co.uk

 **Princethorpe College**
Princethorpe, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9PX
Tel: 01926 634200 E-mail: post@princethorpe.co.uk

