

Oathall Community College
Teaching & Learning Bulletin
Summer 2015



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Dear Parents

Welcome to the latest edition of our teaching and learning bulletin. This edition continues the theme of showcasing each faculty's work. In the pages that follow, alongside an informative commentary, you will find many images showing samples of the work produced by our students in all disciplines represented in the Art & Design Technology faculty. I am sure that you will agree that our students have produced some extraordinary pieces. As you know, we introduced a new reporting system this year, designed to keep you more fully informed about the progress of your child at Oathall. This works in parallel with Insight, our new parent portal. We now look ahead to September and the introduction of a new approach to assessment. You will be aware, I am sure, that the revised National Curriculum has removed the requirement to assign levels to students' attainment. We have worked hard to develop a new assessment system that will enhance student progress. Moreover, the clear integration with our reporting system will ensure that you and your child continue to be better informed about their progress. An introduction to this system is provided on the following pages with more information to follow in due course.

Mr E Rodriguez - Headteacher



Talk for Writing

Throughout this academic year, Emily Evans Head of the English Faculty, has been leading some whole school training for the teaching staff on “Talk for Writing”

“Talk for Writing” is a way of teaching children how to imitate the key language they need for a particular topic orally before they try reading and analysing it. A range of fun activities help them rehearse the tune of the language they need, followed by shared writing to show them how to craft their writing, children are helped to write in the same style.

Schools that have adopted the approach have seen that student progress has increased and that children and teachers alike love it. It is key tool to support the delivery of literacy across the curriculum.

You may have already seen your child using some of the following “Talk for Writing” strategies in their work this year:

Never Heard the Word Grid, Exemplar text highlighted.



Work Related Learning Week

This half term we are excited about the forthcoming Year 10 Work Related Learning Week: 29th June – 3rd July 2015. The year 10 students will experience a range of work related activities during the week. An outline of the programme is detailed below:

Land Based Industries - Careers talk

Barclays Bank LifeSkills Workshops

Practical workshops on CV writing and guidance on how to prepare and approach an interview. On completion of the workshops, students will attend a formal mock interview.

Visit to Sussex University, Plumpton College or Crawley College

The focus for this day is to find out more about student life and the expectations of the Further Education and Higher Education sector.

‘Work Observation Day’

The school is pleased to offer the opportunity for the year group to visit a place of work with a parent, friend or relation.

This is a valuable step towards students becoming more familiar with the world of work all carefully coordinated by Mrs Hart, Work Related Learning Coordinator.

Assessment

A new assessment system for years 7-9 from September 2015.

Following changes to the national curriculum, maintained schools are no longer required to use “levels” (1-7) to measure students attainment. At Oathall we are in the process of introducing a new system for September. The faculties have all been working very hard to create comprehensive assessment criteria for each subject area.

This term we would like a group of parents and students to be involved in the next stage of our work to ensure that the new assessment system upholds the following principles:

- To clearly identify the strengths and areas for improvement as a student learns.
- To challenge and stretch each student
- To complement our new reporting system.

If you would like to be part of this small working party please contact Mrs A. Stoneley (astoneley@oathall.org), Headteacher's PA.

Further details of our new assessment system will be released next term.





Design Technology & Art Faculty

The Design Technology and Art Faculty are committed to providing students with a stimulating and challenging curriculum that will allow them to flourish in the world of design.

With creativity in mind we strive for excellence across all the subject areas of the faculty. As Head of Faculty I am proud to lead a dedicated, like minded team of people who work tirelessly to help the students in our care reach outstanding results.


We have many links with the community, businesses, primary schools and charitable organisations including Haywards Heath Rotary Club and The Princess Royal Hospital. This teaching and learning bulletin hopefully gives a flavour of students' work in the Faculty during the year.

Mr P Robinson - Head of Art & Design Faculty



Computing

This is a new addition to the curriculum at Oathall. Computing lessons focus on the science of how computers work, as well as how to solve problems by 'thinking like a computer', designing algorithms and creating programming solutions. In the lessons students learn about computer hardware, internet safety, and online collaboration. Students throughout Key Stage 3 are taught to write using two programming languages. Culminating in their final product, a computer program. While Year 9 students learn to write Python, which gives them the necessary skills to embark on the GCSE computing course. Students in Year 7 and 8 are given a visual introduction to coding through the excellent TurtleSystem programming environment designed and coded according to a specification, and is then extended with extra features added by the students.

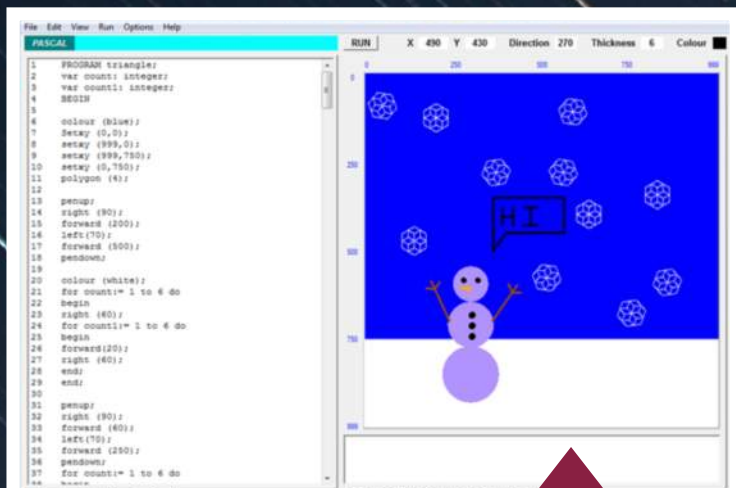


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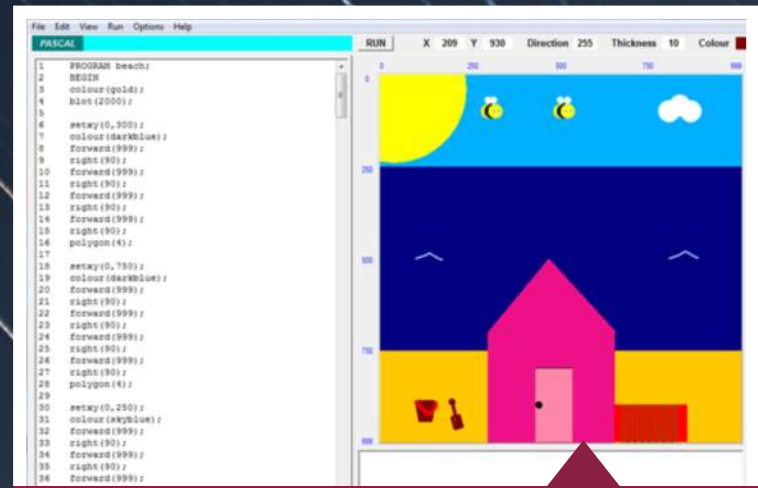
Turtle system

TurtleSystem is based on the Pascal language, which is easy to read, yet rigid in a way that is similar to Python. Students learn to write commands without any spelling mistakes and to respect the use of brackets, semi-colons and other special punctuation. Students are expected to identify their own mistakes and debug their programs.

Once students have completed a range of challenges using angles to draw different shapes, and adding colour to their designs, they begin to use more advanced structures involving procedures, loops, variables and animation. Students of all abilities can excel in their own creative projects: whilst many students produce attractive and detailed static pictures, the most ambitious projects to date have included loops that create the illusion of movement. Several students have even managed to code fully-working clocks, where both hands move independently of one another and at the right speed!



Florence Gaskell (Year 8)



Elise Coughlin (Year 8)



Food Technology

In Key stage three students focus on key skills to be able to cook for themselves and use tools and equipment safely. Year 7 centres around healthy eating, year 8 pasta and rice main meals and year 9 is pastry. Each project encourages students to adapt recipes, introducing their own creativity and flair.

Food Technology

At GCSE students explore their skills and knowledge in more depth. The course involves a major piece of coursework, the theme is “Bake Off” this year. The students always enjoy the Christmas project, the gingerbread house in Year 10.





Textiles

Throughout KS3 Textiles, students experience a range of design tasks that encourage individuality and creativity, whilst learning a variety of techniques, developing their skills and striving to produce quality products.

Textiles

Year 8 students create patterned fabric, using the tie dye technique. This is then applied when they make their storage container. Students are encouraged to show precision in their machine skills and to produce a quality product. They are encouraged to challenge themselves by trialling a variety of techniques within their work.

Year 9 students experience the techniques of quilting and binding when making an oven mitt. They use thermochromic and transfer dyes to enhance and individualise their work. Students are challenged by the variety of fabrics and multiple layers within their product.

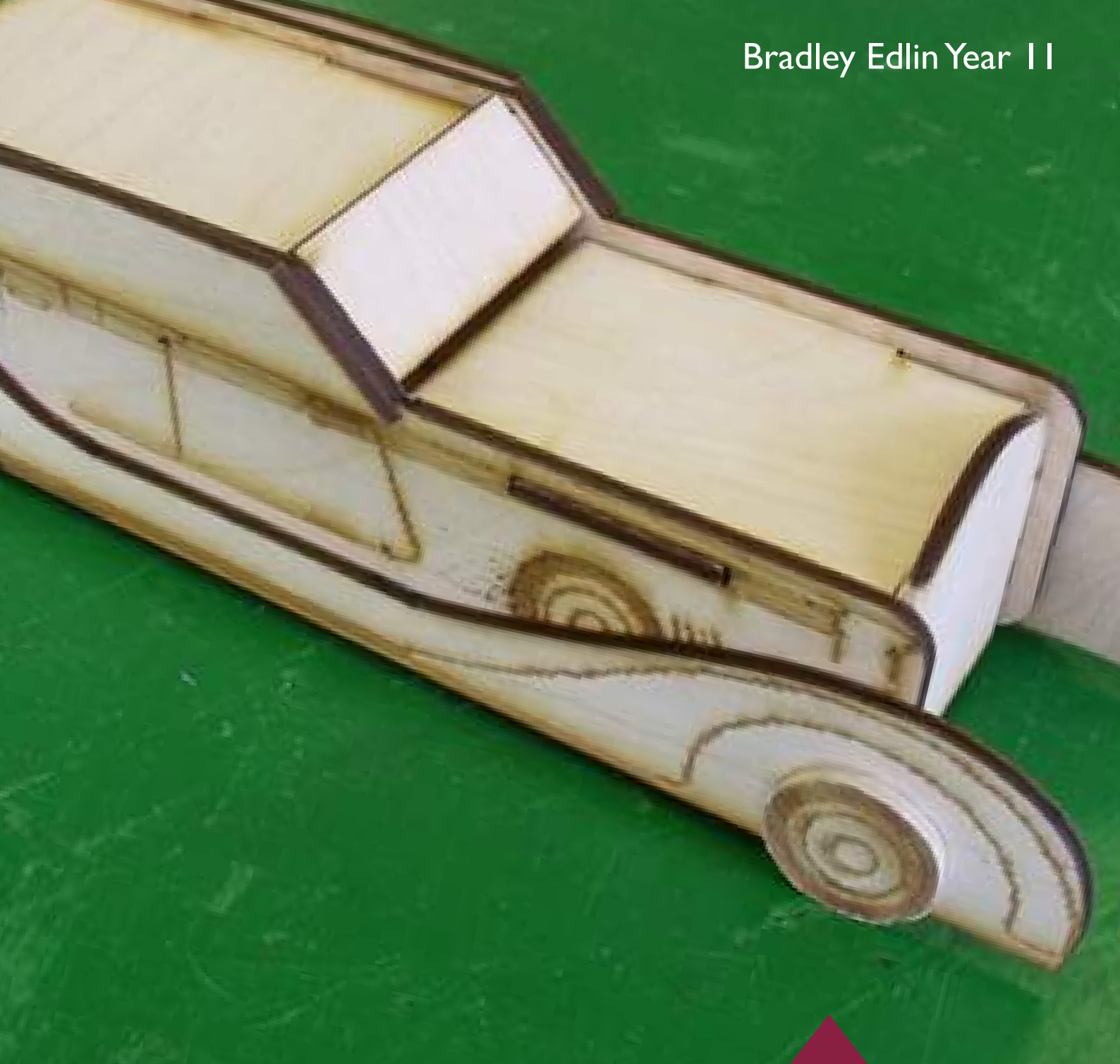


Honey L (Year 8)



Chloe Morris (Year 9)

Textiles at GCSE allows students to develop their own interests through a variety of projects. The current Year 10 students have made skirts and a decorative cushion based on the theme of autumn. Students are encouraged to try a range of constructional and decorative techniques within their work, to ensure that they are able to fulfil the need to design and make a complex product for their exam coursework. Year 11 students design and make a product from a range of given themes set by AQA and this contributes 60% of the final examination grade.



Resistant Materials

Year 7 students concentrate on planning and developing a project whilst learning about mechanisms in moving toy project.

Year 8 students develop their hand-skills in wood work by designing and making a mobile phone holder.

Year 9 students use product design to produce a functional product through modelling, computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM).

Resistant Materials

The GCSE Resistant Materials course involves producing a main project for their final piece using many of the skills and processes learnt in KS3 . Below are some of the pieces that the current year I Is are entering for their GCSE in June 2015.





Product Design

Year 8 students work with wood, plastic and electronic components to design and manufacture prototype colour-changing mood lights. The project involves conceptualising, drawing on existing products to come up with, and develop ideas and introduces processes such as vacuum forming and manufacture with the laser cutter.

Science, Technology Engineering & mathematics (STEM) Events and Activities



IMEC Slot Car Challenge 2014

8 Oathall students and Mr Maier visited the University of Brighton to learn more about careers in Engineering and Mechanics, listen to talks given by students of the University and Industry professionals, and take part in the Slot Car Challenge. The slot car challenge involved designing and making a slot car that would be able to master several races, including a speed test, hill climb and heavy load challenge. Whilst our car didn't win the race, the students gained valuable insight into the world of motorsports.



The Big Bang Expo at Northbrook College

The Big Bang is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK. The show demonstrates just how many exciting and rewarding opportunities there are for students with the right experience and qualifications.

The Big Bang Expo at Northbrook College

Mr Maier and Mrs Jarvis took 14 year 8 students to the Big Bang, to learn more about current technologies and opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



“The most interesting stall was the one about making an aerodynamic car because you got to make something yourself instead of just watching. I learnt how the shape of an object affects how much air is pushing against it and how to design a car that has less air resistance.” - Oscar

“I learnt how to create a light up switch, it was interesting because we got to see how the wiring was connected.” - Elise

“I learnt that there are lots of engineering opportunities for my future and that almost anywhere has a place for a engineer!” - Eleanor





Nestle Workshop at Oathall

Mr Maier's Product Design class and Mrs Slater's Food Technology class had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Nestle and MyKindaCrowd workshop at school.

The students found out about the operation of an international multibillion-dollar company and met young people, currently in Nestle apprenticeship programmes, to discuss their experiences. Our students then had to design an energy efficient production line for a Nestlé product. At the end of the day our students had to deliver a presentation. There were eight students who will now attend an Assessment Day in June, where they will compete to try to win a work experience opportunity at the company.

Art Curriculum - Years 7 - 9

The art curriculum aims to develop students' skills using a wide range of materials and techniques whilst introducing them to a variety of individual artists' work for inspiration.

Year 7 students have been improving their observation skills exploring line and tone through drawing in pencil, pen, printing ink, wire, graphite and chalk dust. They have researched work by landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy and created their own impressive sculptures using natural forms. Students are currently enjoying the challenge of figure drawing inspired by artist Alberto Giacometti using pencil and watercolour and will be producing individual A2 figure paintings over the coming weeks.

Year 8 students have focused on observation studies of sweets using a range of dry and wet media.

Their A3 paintings demonstrate improved colour mixing and tonal blending skills, creating vivid images inspired by artist Sarah Graham.

They have also produced ambitious large scale sweet sculptures in response to artist Claes Oldenburg's giant food sculptures.

Students will now be designing their own compositions for a final piece painting inspired by artist Bruno Donzelli.

Year 9 students have developed a series of expressive portrait drawings, the A2 charcoal and chalk studies working from photographs of their teachers were very successful.

Our traditional 'ugly mug' project allowed students to develop their clay sculpting skills and create original designs.

Students are currently making individual masks taking inspiration from a wide variety of sources.



GCSE Photography students' work exhibited by professional studio

Former Oathall Community College student Lee Foulger opened his new Photographic Studio in Burgess Hill having completed his degree in Photography at Falmouth University in Cornwall.

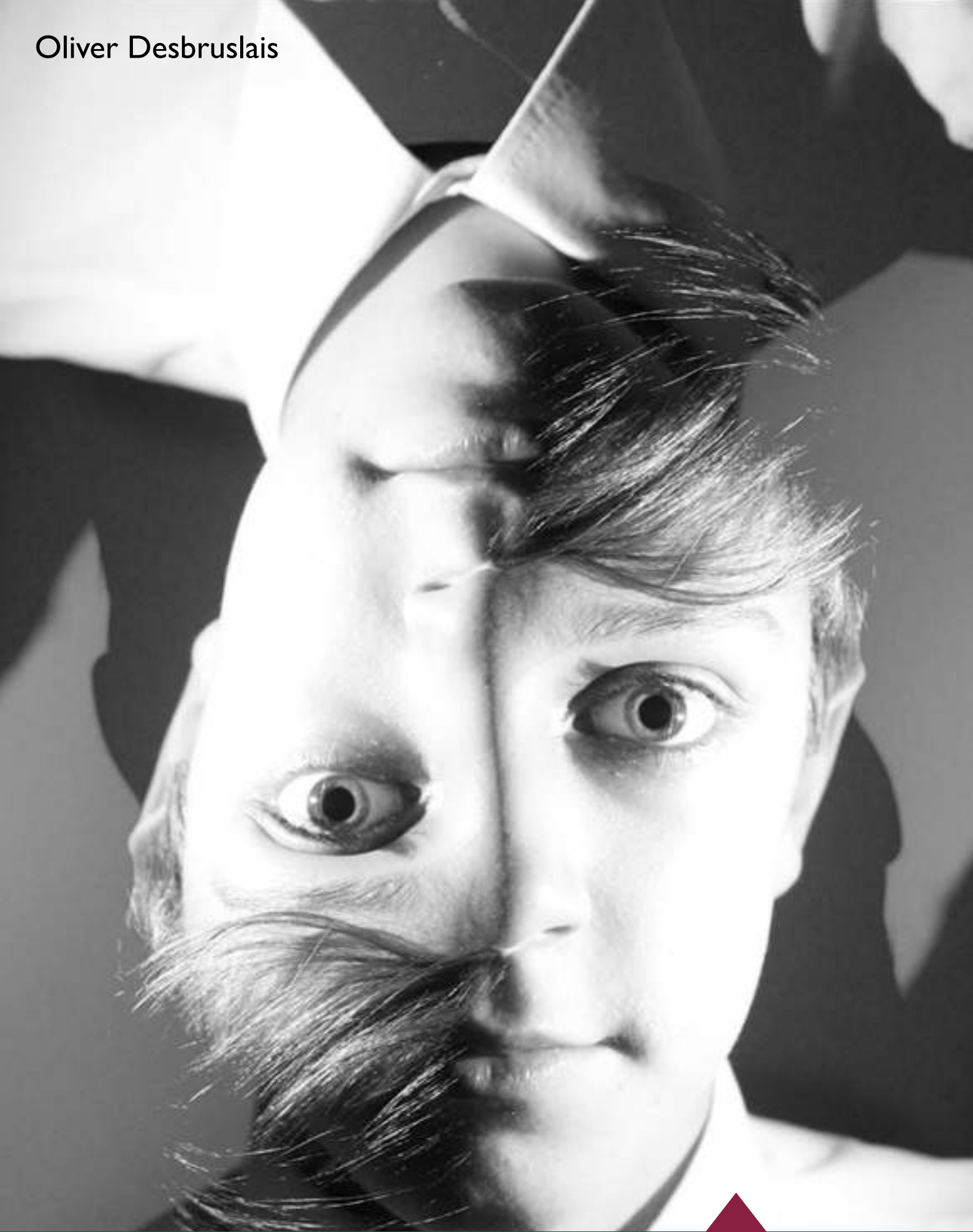
At the opening night he dedicated a wall to displaying the work of current GCSE Photography students: Oliver DESBRUSLAIS, Lara McCALL and Emily WILLIS he explained his reasons as follows:

“I have donated this wall space to Oathall Community College in Haywards Heath as I was a student there and was in the first year that photography was taught as a separate subject for GCSE. Oathall is where my passion for the medium of photography started, and I have gone on to complete my degree and open this business.



I am proud to show work from such young, talented photographers as I know how hard it is to get noticed when still very young. I want to be able to give students at Oathall somewhere where people will see their work and maybe even buy - with the students keeping all the money. It only takes one person to see a piece for something to happen.

Photography and media is growing at a rapid rate, everyone knows how to take a photo, but not everyone can make a photo. Photography is an art form and because of the modern technology and the things that have been created in the past, it is hard to stand out and do something different, but the students here have raw talent, and with more training, could progress much further.”



GCSE Photography students' work exhibited
by professional studio



Young Photographer Rotary Competition

Congratulations to Jacob Neller who won the annual local Rotary competition 'Light up the Community' with his series of evening photographs of Lindfield. Judges were also impressed with Amelia Gabbard's photographs and both of these GCSE photography students' images have been selected for entry into the national stage of the competition.



Haywards Heath Art Trail 2015

This is the third year the 'Art Trail' has been organised by the Haywards Heath Community Community Interest Company (CIC), and it is again supporting Sussex artists.

Oathall's contribution to the Art Trail was displayed in the window of Grape and Grain in the Broadway, a prestigious exhibition space which is the start of the Art Trail.

The eight foot high sculpture is called 'The Hegarty Tree', on which hangs twelve picture frames designed and made by year 10 GCSE Art students, inspired by the artist Valerie Hegarty. The exhibition began on Saturday 11th April.

Congratulations to the following year 10 students whose individual pieces created this impressive group piece: Ella Hume, Millie Gault, Saskia Willard, Anna Sweeney, Samantha Wadmore, Callum Harris, Eloise Lavender, Ella Campbell, Sophie Knight, Amber Layne, Amy Langley and Abbie Sibun.





GCSE Art and Photography

Year 11 students started their exam project at the end of January. They have been recording their observations and creating work inspired by other artists and photographers. Sketchbooks and workbooks document the journey students have taken to explore their chosen theme and final piece.



Gifted and Talented Primary Workshops

Our feeder primary schools have once again been invited to select gifted and talented year 4 and 5 students to attend our popular Art and Design Technology workshops throughout this year. To date students have attended workshops with a focus on observation tonal drawing, food technology, painting, electronics in textiles, ceramics and product design. The workshops are led by subject specialist teachers who encourage students to work at a fast pace and challenge themselves creatively. Individual students can take their work home and also share the techniques they have learnt with their peers at school.