

# Battle Abbey School

The Joanna Lumley Performing Arts Scholarship



**Joanna Lumley** went to School at St Mary's in Hastings, now part of the Conquest Hospital. She played lacrosse against Battle Abbey and always enjoyed her visits to the School. In October 2005 she consented to open the new Performing Arts Centre at Battle Abbey School and kindly agreed to become the patron of Performing Arts at the School. She has visited the School in order to promote Performing Arts and as part of this she has allowed a Scholarship Fund to be started in her name.

## Aims of the **Scholarship**

A Scholarship Fund has been established to allow pupils who are very talented in Performing Arts to join the Sixth Form for their education. An annual award for a Year 11 pupil joining the Lower Sixth will be made and will be up to the value of 90% of the School fees. Our standard scholarship award is 20% of the fees and any award in excess of this will be dependent on a means test of parental income. The recipient of the award will have to show a high level of ability in two of the three disciplines of acting, singing and dance. They will be expected to choose A Level Theatre Studies and although we would prefer Music as one of the applicant's other A Level options, it is not mandatory. We would, however, expect the successful applicant to have achieved at least a B grade in GCSE Drama. The award of the Scholarship will depend on a practical examination at the School supported by a record of achievement within the Performing Arts. Joanna Lumley will be kept informed concerning the identity of the winner of the Scholarship and of that person's progress.



*'Les Miserable' Spring 2017*



*'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' Winter 2014*



# Drama at the Abbey

The Performing Arts are an important part of school life. There are extra-curricular opportunities for all students to take part in clubs and productions: Every student has the opportunity to be involved in a musical, play or choral event during the school year. In addition, students from any year group can join the technical team who design and provide technical and front of house support for the productions and events.

Students on the Theatre Studies course produce performances of improvised and scripted work each year as part of their assessments.

Lessons and extra-curricular activities take place in the fully equipped drama studio.

Music students have access to a full range of instrumental lessons and are expected to join the School Choir. For advanced singers there is the Chamber Choir and for instrumentalists there is a Brass Ensemble, a String Ensemble and a Concert Orchestra.

The Music Department puts on three major events every year – Carols Round The Fire in the Autumn Term, the Spring Concert in March and the Summer Concert in late June/early July.

Additionally the Choir supports the 3 main school church services – Founder's Day, the Carol Service and Speech Day. The Chamber Choir has toured to Austria and it is hoped that the main choir will undertake a tour in the near future.

Dance Students can take dance classes in a variety of styles or join the popular Dance Club.



*'Canterbury Tales' Spring 2016*



# The Crew

## Teacher Profiles



**John Langridge** - BA (Hons), Cert Ed, LRSM began his career at the Guildford School of Acting, one of the country's leading drama colleges which had a pioneering musical theatre course. In 1987 he became a live music producer for BBC Radio 2 where he initiated and produced the radio musicals series - 23 full scale productions using stars of the West End and Broadway and working with such figures as Stephen Sondheim, John Kander and Marvin Hamlisch. The productions included Follies, Jesus Christ Superstar, Guys and

Dolls, Carousel and Cabaret. After leaving the BBC in 1998 he moved to Hastings and subsequently became Head of Music at Bexhill College before taking up his current post at Battle Abbey in January 2006. John says; "From the moment I started at Battle Abbey I realised that the School had a very special and unique atmosphere which, with the combination of its excellent performing arts facilities and beautiful setting, makes it most conducive to creative and expressive work."



**Linda Hopkins** - BA (Hons), MA(Ed), PGCE has led drama departments in a variety of schools and whilst living in Southern Germany, worked professionally on a number of recording contracts, ran adult drama workshops and was involved with live theatre as an actor and director. After several successful years as Head of Drama at Helenswood School at a time when the school became a Performing Arts College, she moved to Battle Abbey in 2006. Linda says: "It is a real pleasure to work in a building dedicated to the

Performing Arts where the buzz of creativity is always in the air, and in a school where the Arts are recognised and valued as an essential part of every student's development."



**Judith Colman** - GBSM DipRAM whilst still singing professionally herself, Judith divides her time between teaching singing at Battle Abbey and coaching in London. Her work includes teaching at Millennium Performing Arts and coaching singers in many of the Army Bands. She also runs several Youth Choirs, including Choral courses run at the Abbey. Judith says; "Working with young singers is something that excites me immensely and I love working with the dynamic Performing Arts and Music Departments at the Abbey. I feel proud of the exceptional training the young

performers are experiencing here and it is a joy to walk into an establishment where creativity is nurtured and supported at all levels."

There are also twelve peripatetic teaching staff who offer a wide range of instrumental and vocal coaching.

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Claire Adams</b>     | Piano, Flute and Recorder |
| <b>Oliver Boorman</b>   | Drums and Percussion      |
| <b>Graham Coldwell</b>  | Violin                    |
| <b>Patricia Beament</b> | Violin                    |
| <b>Eddie Jones</b>      | Guitar                    |
| <b>Emily Steventon</b>  | Singing                   |
| <b>Nikki Holt</b>       | Clarinet and Saxophone    |
| <b>Ralph Swanwick</b>   | Cello                     |
| <b>Mark Summerbell</b>  | Trumpet and Trombone      |
| <b>Cameron Milne</b>    | Piano                     |
| <b>Calum Burgess</b>    | Theory                    |



# Some cast, past and present



**Claire Petzal**

**Previous School:** Vinehall

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2004

**Went on to:** Rose Bruford College Of Performance

"Being at Battle Abbey opened doors for me I didn't know I could even open. The school and its pupils and staff are people I will always remember".

**Catherine Anderson**  
(Professional name: Catherine Hayworth)

**Previous School:** Ratton

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2007

**Went on to:** Guildford School of acting

*"I have been completely immersed in the Performing Arts at Battle Abbey, and have really enjoyed taking part in all it has to offer: concerts, musicals, and plays to name a few. It has been such*

*a good place to expand my skills, and the experience I have gained here played a big part in giving me what I needed for a place at Drama School.*

*BAS teachers Linda Hopkins, Judith Colman and John Langridge were an absolute inspiration to me and without them, their wisdom, their patience with me, I'd never have won my place at Guildford (School of Acting). The PAC was a second home, really. So yep, you can take the girl out of the Abbey but..."*



**Charlotte Hoy**

**Previous School:** The Grove (Now Hastings Academy)

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2008

**Went on to:** Italia Conti Academy Of Theatre Arts

*"I enjoyed every minute of my time at Battle Abbey. Every day brought a new exciting opportunity in the Performing Arts Centre, which we all shared with the amazing teachers and talented pupils. I was very lucky to have gone there!"*



### **Will Cousins**

**Previous School:** Claverham Community College

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2009

**Went on to:** Guildford School Of Acting

*"Battle Abbey School provides us with fantastic opportunities. Not only to work intensively with small class sizes and focused studies, but to work alongside teachers that really know their stuff, are, or have been, industry professionals, who can offer their expertise to help mould the individual performer".*



## Behind the Scenes



### **Chris Rogers** (Senior 'Techy' 2005 - 2010)

*"As soon as I got to Battle Abbey I was actively involved with the technical aspects of school productions. I have learnt about things that I never knew or would have known about. There is a weekly meeting that all are welcome to (young and old) where everybody learns something new every week, using the schools' state of the art lighting and sound equipment, which some would say are too advanced!"*

*As Battle Abbey is small, it allows everybody in the small tech team (ranging from 1 for some events to 10 on others) to experience a live production from most, if not all, areas of the technical side of the production. With all this state of the art and advanced equipment at our disposal, Battle Abbey School is more like a small professional performance space than a school, being much better equipped than most schools in the area.*

*Every week here you face new challenges, whether it is moving an entire production outside in 6 hours before it is being performed, to the public, or finding the right cable. There are always people willing to help though, be it staff or students."*



**Zach LeCheminant**

**Previous School:** Bexhill High School

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2011

**Went on to:** After leaving the Abbey Zach was offered a scholarship to Drama College in the USA. Currently works at Battle Abbey School.

*"Since joining the Abbey I have experienced many 'ups and downs'. All of which were in the interest of gaining the invaluable knowledge one can only get from being surrounded by excellent teaching and honest, reliable compassionate peers. My time at the Abbey has been most enriching, fun filled and best of all challenging!"*

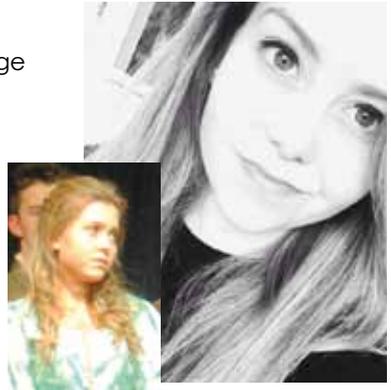
**Hannah Duval**

**Previous School:** Claverham Community College

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2012

**Went on to:** University Of Birmingham

*"I am very thankful for my experience at the Abbey as a Joanna Lumley Scholar. It has allowed me to develop and expand my skills within the Performing Arts, especially my confidence in Acting, as well as providing me with many extra curricular opportunities to do with the industry. The Abbey has also allowed me to pursue other interests, especially my Golf as I play at a National Level. The performing arts centre has a family atmosphere, eccentricities and all! I feel that participating in productions and concerts has pushed me out of my comfort zone, which has developed me as a performer. It has not only developed my performing but has also enabled me to grow as an individual and prepared me with life skills."*



**Mollie Tucker**

**Previous School:** Bexhill High School

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2013

**Went on to:** Gap Year

*"Studying Performing Arts at battle under the Joanna Lumley Scholarship has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. The atmosphere is filled with support and kindness with the necessary amount of challenges. I feel that it has prepared me for the industry I hope to pursue."*



# Behind the Scenes

## Alice Stephenson

**Previous School:** Battle Abbey Prep School

**Went on to:** Mountview Academy of Theatre and Arts

**Works at:** Leicester Square Theatre

*"The opportunities in the Performing Arts department not only stretch to fantastic drama, singing and dance training, but we also have a completely student run technical department. We run this very differently to other schools, in the fact we do it all ourselves. As the current Head of Tech,*

*I have been presented with so many opportunities, such as lighting shows, organizing productions, and mentoring the younger years, from which there is a huge interest in tech. I have worked my way up through the ranks since I joined in Year 10, after having said I would 'liaise with the tech team' I became the tech team, and single handedly put on a show. Since then, I have decided to study Technical Theatre at university, and that decision was all down to the opportunities I have had at Battle."*



# Current Joanna Lumley Scholar

## Lauren Ramsden

**Previous School:** Claverham

**Joanna Lumley Scholar:** 2016 (Current)

*"Battle Abbey is a part of history, and studying the Performing Arts here is an absolute pleasure. The facilities are brilliant and it honestly feels as though the arts are respected and admired here."*

*I am so lucky to have been awarded the Joanna Lumley scholarship as, without it, I might not even have looked at coming to Battle Abbey, but now I cannot imagine a more creative and nurturing environment to fall in love with performing arts again."*



# Behind the Scenes

## **Isobel Beadle**

**Subjects:** English, French and Theatre Studies.

**Extra Curricular Clubs:** Tech. Club, Drama Club (for the annual musical and play), Ancient Greek, Debating Club and French Club.

**Where did you start your school career?** I started my school career at Bedes Prep school.

**What's working on the Tech Team like?**

Working on the Battle Abbey Tech Team is interesting, you get to work with an amazing group of people from all year groups and learn new skills.

**What's the best thing about being at the**

**Abbey?** The best thing is the close-knit family atmosphere of the school.

**Describe Abbey life in one word:** Incredible

**What do you want to go on to do?** I want to go to university and do a joint honours degree in French and Theatre.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** In 10 years, I see myself in a well paid enjoyable career!



## **Piers Shoesmith**

**Subjects:** Maths, English, Double Science, Spanish, Drama, History, Computing.

**Extra Curricular Clubs:** Tech Club is the only one for me.

**Where did you start your school career?** Bedes Prep School.

**What's working on the Tech Team like?** It's exiting and enjoyable to have so many different experiences and to explore the hundreds of different ways to put on a show or concert.

**What's the best thing about being at the Abbey?** It's such a small school that it's like one big family, everyone knows everyone.

**Describe Abbey life in one word:** Unique.

**What do you want to go on to do?** Something in computing or technology.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** In a job to do with technology or Sailing technology in London.

## You dont have to be a **Joanna Lumley** Scholar!

**Isabelle Riley** (Year 13, left 2017)  
**Previous School:** Claremont



Issy has been offered a place on the Musical Theatre course at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London for September 2017. She will take one of only eighteen places on the course at what is widely regarded to be one of the top three facilities in Europe for performance related courses. With over 1,500 applying for just 18 places. The RCS audition process is notoriously brutal featuring delivery of two contrasting vocal pieces, two drama monologues and a dance workshop, with culls throughout the first day and the majority not getting past day one.

*"I'm honoured and humbled to get this opportunity. It's fantastic to see my hard work pay off and I'm already looking forward to taking up my place in September. I'm eternally grateful to everybody at Battle Abbey who helped me with my performance training and skills over the last five years."*

'Sweeney Todd' Winter 2015



# The Sixth Form at **Battle Abbey**

Sixth Formers are important role models at Battle Abbey. They set the standards for the student community in terms of academic commitment, conduct, discipline, courtesy and smartness. Their example is essential in maintaining the friendly, family atmosphere of which the School is so justly proud.

With a reduced timetable at A Level, the Sixth Form will have a number of periods out of class. Of these, 75% are designated as 'Study Periods' and must be used in the Library or Sixth Form Study Rooms for academic purposes. Year 12 and 13 students are not expected to attend supervised prep.

## **Responsibilities**

All Sixth Formers have the opportunity to be selected as 'Stars' (House Prefects) or 'Bronzes' (Senior School Prefects). The School also appoints students as 'School Guardians' (Head Boy and/or Girl) and 'Head(s) of Boarding' each year. These positions are quite prestigious and character building and allow the Sixth Form to perform a vital function in the running of the School. Qualities of leadership, integrity and a commitment to teamwork are essential in those students chosen as they will be expected to perform a range of duties for the benefit of the entire school community.



## Facilities

Sixth Formers at Battle Abbey have the benefit of their own study rooms with ICT facilities and a well-furnished common room where they can make tea, coffee and toast. Additional facilities, such as fitness suite, cafe, additional study areas and a terrace are located in Martlet house.

There is a Sixth Form Christmas dinner held as a formal dress occasion and there is also the Summer Ball; these events are organised by the School Bronzes and Guardians. Students have the opportunity to attend various trips and outings of a social, academic and vocational nature as part of their Sixth Form curriculum.

## Service

All Battle Abbey Sixth Formers are expected, as part of their role as senior students to serve the school and the wider community. This could involve supporting junior lessons, leading Extra Curricular Clubs or supporting local charity and community initiatives. There will also be opportunities for our senior students to assist at our Prep School.



# Sixth Form Life by the School Guardians 2018/2019

'Battle Abbey Sixth Form encourages us to achieve the best possible grades, in addition to providing us with the skills to be independent, responsible, well rounded individuals when we leave the Abbey. There is not a day that goes by when there isn't a club, trip, event or society meeting taking place, (ranging from school choirs and knitting clubs to debating and sports teams). The Sixth Form have the opportunity to not only participate in these activities, but also to become leaders and role models for younger students. These opportunities along with positions of responsibility in the school (Guardians, Bronzes, Stars and Heads of Houses) enable us to vocalise our opinions on behalf of the student body, and have a say in the day to day running of the school.

Traditions are a key element to Battle Abbey life, and particularly for the Sixth Form; the Sixth Form-only events such as the Sixth Form Christmas Dinner and the Summer Ball are highlights in the year. Both events unite the students and teachers for two incredible evenings of food, dancing and friendship. There are also many other school events ranging from concerts and Founder's Days to the infamous school Christmas lunch. During the latter event, the whole school

wears Christmas jumpers and sits with their Houses, enjoying a wonderful Christmas dinner provided by the ever so friendly catering staff and, to conclude the festivities, an incredibly intense paper fight!

The Inter-House competitions are also very important traditions creating competitive house spirit, in annual events such as the Christmas pantomime competition and Sports day in the summer, as well all the House charity-fundraising events throughout the year, which the Sixth Form are encouraged to lead. These events help improve our organisational and people skills, as well as leadership qualities.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to give up two free periods or an after school period a week to help out in a Key Stage 3 lesson or club, building the bridge between the younger and the older members of the school, developing and supporting the cohesive, family atmosphere that is so valuable to Battle Abbey School.

Martlet House is an incredibly important part of, and a huge asset to, Sixth Form life, providing a place for Sixth Formers to both relax and study. The Martlet House Café, run by Annie, is a great place to socialise with a cup of tea or coffee after lessons. With an extra silent study room, outside terrace, fitness suite and computer room, we have plenty of facilities available for us to work in and unwind.

Year 13 and the University Application process, or UCAS, can be particularly daunting with multiple deadlines and putting together a Personal Statement. Yet with the amount of support available from teachers and peers at Battle Abbey, it seems a lot more manageable. This support from teachers not only applies to submitting applications, as due to the friendly ethos of the School, our teachers' doors are always open for extra assistance in their given subject areas, advice, or just a little chat as they will happily lend a hand whenever they can.

Overall, Sixth Form life is never boring, and if you join Battle Abbey, you will leave with dozens of wonderful memories and lifelong friends; as a versatile individual who has acquired skills inside and outside the classroom, and fully equipped for whatever exciting adventures and careers lie ahead of you.'

# Scholarship Application Form

Name of Pupil: .....

Date of Birth: ..... Entry into Year: .....

Name of current School: .....

Current Home address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Tel: ..... email: .....

I wish my son/daughter to sit the Joanna Lumley Scholarship for Performing Arts at Battle Abbey School.

Parent name 1 (Please print)

.....

Parent name 2 (If applicable)

.....

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

*Please return this form to:*

Mrs L Jackson, Registrar, Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0AD

**NB:** Please include a copy of the applicants most recent School report.

## **BATTLE ABBEY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP, EXHIBITION or BURSARY CONDITIONS OF AWARD**

1. Awards: The following awards towards tuition fees are from time to time made available by the School.
  - Scholarship: A Scholarship consisting of a percentage of the tuition fee may be awarded to a pupil who shows academic prowess in the Scholarship Examinations.
  - Bursary: A Bursary may be awarded to a pupil where the parents have shown that they would have difficulty paying the full fees. The award of a Special Bursary is made by the Finance Committee of Governors upon their consideration of a completed Means Test Form. Special Bursaries are reviewed annually and parents may be required to complete a further Means Test Form.
  - Sibling Discount: A Sibling Bursary of 12% of tuition fees will be awarded to the third child in any family who is at the School in the same term as the other two. A fourth or subsequent child will be entitled to a 25% Sibling Bursary.
  - Military Discount: The Children of serving British military personnel (Royal Navy, Royal Air Force or Army) will be entitled to a military discount of 12%.
  - Staff Discount: Members of staff of the School may be entitled to receive a Staff Discount at a rate to be agreed with the [Headmaster/Bursar]. The Staff Discount will cease to apply upon termination of the employment of the member of staff.
2. Obligations of the pupil: A pupil who is the subject of an Award is required to work hard, to contribute positively to the life of the School, to be a credit to the School and to set a good example to other pupils. These are the Purposes of the Award.
3. Obligations of the Parent/s: The parents are expected to support and encourage the pupil to achieve the purposes of the Award and to uphold the aims and the good name of the School. The parents are also required to pay the balance of the account by the first day of term. In the case of the scholarship, unless otherwise stated in writing, it is offered on condition that the pupil completes his/her education to the end of the Sixth Form at Battle Abbey School. In the event that the pupil is removed in other than circumstances such as a job move or family disruption, the benefits of the scholarship, from its inception, will be recoverable from the parent/s.
4. Withdrawal of the Award: The Award may be withdrawn by written notice sent to a parent if, in the opinion of the Governors acting in good faith, the pupil or a parent has not complied with the obligations set out at paragraphs 1 and 2 above or otherwise the pupil has fallen below the required standards of conduct and progress and in the further opinion of the Governors there has been no significant improvement following consultation with a parent and/or the pupil and a written warning. Withdrawal of the Award shall take effect from the start of the following term.  
Further, the Award may be withdrawn by written notice if the balance of the account remains unpaid 28 days after a written reminder has been sent to the parents.
5. Repayment events: Parents shall be required forthwith upon written notice to repay all or part of the benefits they have received under the Award in any of the following circumstances:
  - Up to three terms benefits (if received) if the pupil has engaged in serious misconduct or has been expelled or removed for reasons of misconduct by the requirement of the Head acting in good faith;
  - Up to three terms benefits (if received) in a case of the pupil being withdrawn for any reason during a school term without a term's written notice having been given;
6. Fees in lieu of notice: For the avoidance of doubt, the benefits payable under an Award do not apply to any term for which the School has required payment of fees in lieu of notice.
7. Standard Terms and Conditions: These Conditions of Award take precedence over any of the School's standard terms and conditions which are inconsistent with them but in all other respects the standard terms and conditions as amended from time to time shall apply and these Conditions of Award shall be interpreted in accordance with them.



Joanna Lumley Scholarship  
Winners Charlotte and Will



Joanna Lumley with Joanna Lumley  
Scholarship winner Hannah Duval



'Into the Woods' Winter 2013



Christmas at the Abbey 2014



Battle Abbey School 1912 - 2012  
100 Years of Education, 1000 Years of History

