

EDUCATION

Youngsters win top scholarships

Staff and pupils at Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School in Five Ashes are celebrating a record year of scholarship success.

The non-selective, co-educational school, which recently featured in the Sunday Times Top 100 Prep School list, saw half of its year eights awarded scholarships to independent secondary schools.

Ben Peate and Elizabeth Webb were awarded major academic scholarships to Claremont School and Kent College respectively. Twins Jessica and Gabriella Leach secured sports scholarships to Brighton College, with sports scholarships from Battle Abbey, Fettes College, Bede's and Claremont also being awarded to five other pupils. Florence Gidney gained an art scholarship to Buckswood School, Hastings.

Headmaster Tim Lewis,

commented: "We are so proud of all our leavers. They have worked hard and deserve this success. This has been an outstanding year for scholarships, which is testament to the dedication and commitment to not only our pupils, but parents and staff. We wish all leavers the best of luck with the next phase of their education - they all have exceptionally bright futures."

The school of 130 pupils, acquired by Bellevue Education three years ago, will receive £500k investment over the next two years, to develop facilities and areas of the curriculum.

Phase one will see the development of the creative arts block, improvement of year-round sports' provision and extend early years provision for children aged two to five. Next year's phase two, will see the swimming pool upgraded and the development of a new science area.