

WALLINGFORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition - July 2022



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The end of the school year comes in a blaze of heat and what a year it has been. The school has been vibrant, busy and focused, our students a pleasure to be around and our teaching and associate staff passionately committed to their progress and development. Covid hasn't ever quite gone away but it hasn't been like the previous two years and for that we are grateful as so much of what we had missed has returned with a vengeance.

It would probably be a mistake for me to list here everything that has happened and everyone we need to thank as the list is vast and I would surely miss out something or someone. However, I would like to say a very special "well done" to our Year 11 and Year 13 students and all of the staff who supported them in preparing and getting through the first set of public examinations in three years. For Year 11 in particular, the exam season seemed like it would never end and their resilience, hard work and positivity were so very impressive.

Beyond the exams, the lifeblood of our school community has returned – trips and visits, practices and fixtures, events and celebrations. To have it all back has been wonderful; to see our students smiling and engaging, challenging themselves and growing in confidence through new experiences has been a pleasure to behold.

It is now time for a break which is well-deserved and I would like to wish all members of the school community a great summer holiday and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Year 8 Boulogne, 24th June 2022



Year 9 Residential, 27th June - 1st July 2022



Year 7 visited Kew Gardens, London, last week. This included the Japanese Gardens, Great Pagoda, Temperate House, Palm House and the giant water lilies. They completed work on plant species, plant adaptations, threats to rainforest plants and cultural gardens.





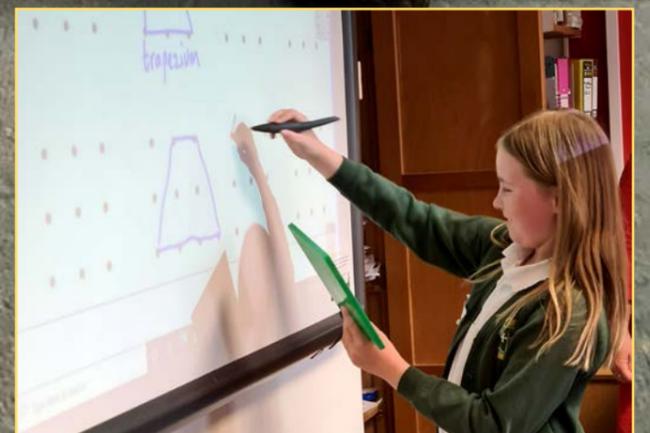
In term 6, we had our rising Year 7 Taster Day.

They began the day by collecting together in the hall for introductions, and then enthusiastically went head first into a range of interesting subjects for their first lessons. Throughout the day they explored exciting new lessons and activities, from the ukulele in music, and coloured indicator experiments in science, to taste testing in Food Technology. They also had the opportunity to inspect the canteen's menu. They all impressed staff with their attitude, approach and knowledge. It was great to also be able to welcome their families to the school later in the evening to talk further about their start to secondary school, and welcome those who are not already part of the Wallingford School community.

Along with the excellent impression from the Year 6s, we are also extremely proud of the rest of our school, with Year 10 and 12 kindly accompanying the Year 6s for the day. They demonstrated what fantastic aspirational role models they are, and the high standards of Wallingford school.

We were so proud of all our students, and are really looking forward to seeing our new Year 7s in September!

By Miss M Rutter (Work Experience Student)



I think I speak for everyone when I say we were excited for this trip; because of Covid there haven't been many trips this year, so this was a very exciting experience for everyone involved.

The trip started early Thursday morning - too early for me and even some of the teachers, who were readily equipped with coffee. We had our hopes to get on the bus for about 6:45 but, after a couple of minor issues, come 9 a.m. the bus was still not here. However, spirits were raised when a double decker bus finally turned into the school car park.

After a two-hour journey, with many sweets consumed on our way, we arrived at our first destination. We split into groups to learn about the history of World War I and how it all came about. Our first task was to create a map of Europe and its alliances, with some brave students acting out wars between colonies. It went down well and everyone was having fun.

We were sent across the field to prepare for our next task, where we were met by an interesting looking lady dressed in a traditional field nurse outfit of the time. We had a detailed talk about the chain of evacuation from down on the trenches all the way home to Britain. Again, some brave students stood up to the task of putting on costumes, much to the amusement of all those around us.

After a filling lunch we were off again, to look at some war memorial graves. Our two lovely instructors told us all about them and, with graves of soldiers from New Zealand, Germany and England, there were many stories to be told about each one.

We took a quick walk down the road to the Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery which had thousands of graves for German soldiers from both world wars. As we walked round, we were told some stories about the different soldiers buried there - a very memorable experience and one I still think about.

After a full day of history, it was time to relax, so we headed off to the Harvester for some well-deserved dinner. We were sectioned off into the corner of the restaurant in an attempt to disturb the public as little as possible. However, with a group of 60+ kids this was a difficult task at times. We had a choice of: chicken, beef or vegan burgers (which, might I add, were delicious), topped off with an ice cream of our choice for dessert, as well as an unlimited drinks machine, which was very popular among our group (not to mention the 10 people in line to get a drink at any given time).

Now was time for the main event. We all crammed into the bus and headed to Hollywood Bowl. On arrival we got into groups of six of our choosing and went to the bowling alleys where, for the next hour or so, we would try our best for a strike. This turned out to be extremely fun and very competitive at times, but nowhere near as competitive as the teachers' game, which looked extremely high stakes.

When that came to an end, we were sent back to the bus where we would finally be going to the hotel for the night. On arrival, Miss Simpkins had some stern but understandable words about the rooms, to which we all complied, and were given an hour before the dreaded lights out.

After a good night's sleep, we were woken to the smell of an all-you-can-eat buffet in the hotel, where a continental and hot breakfast would be served. This was just the right way to start the morning before packing our bags and heading to our next activity of the day.



Today's activity was a war museum and some replica WWI trenches, which came to be some of my favourite activities of the trip. We started off looking at several different tanks and heavy artillery of the time. Next we split into two groups: one was to look at the war museum and the other, the trenches. I started off at the replica trenches where I learnt all about trench warfare and being a soldier in WWI. We learned about what it would have been like for the soldiers, from the dangers of trench foot to what to do in case of gas attacks.

The war museum had information, model weaponry, and model outfits from all the different wars spanning from WWI to the Gulf War. It was a really interesting experience and one I learnt a lot from. However, most exciting of all was the gift shop!

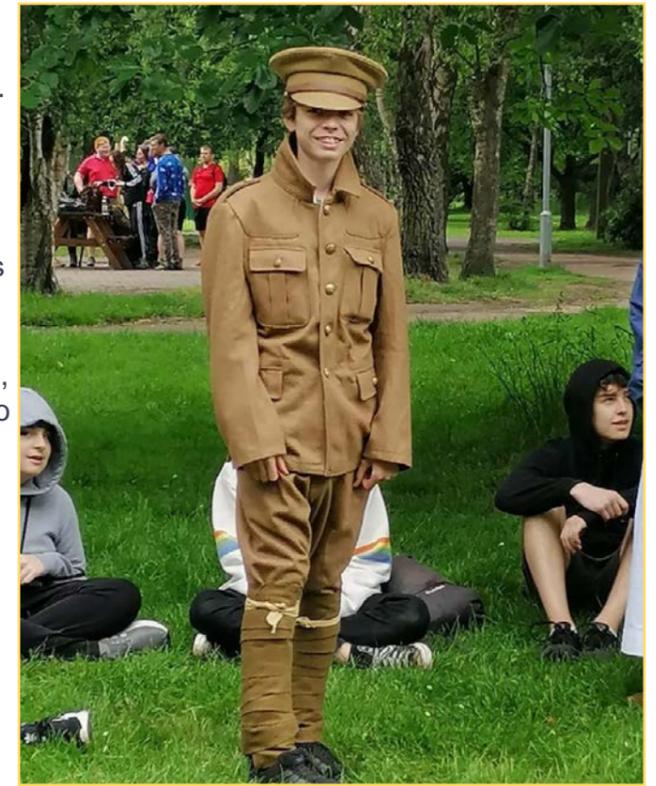
Next, we came to, in my personal opinion the best part of the trip: The National Memorial Arboretum. We were again split up into three large groups and assigned a tour guide who took us around the arboretum, showing us different memorials and the real meaning behind them. We looked at five memorials, each with their own unique meaning. My favourite was the Armed Forces Memorial, which lists the names of every soldier who died in service since WWII.

To finish the trip, the best two History students (chosen by the teachers) laid a wreath to commemorate the soldiers specifically from Oxfordshire. This was a heart-warming note to end before heading back home.

All things must come to an end and, for us Year 10 historians, that moment was now. So, for the last time we crammed onto the bus and got ready for the long journey ahead.

I just want to say a huge thank you to all the teachers involved for creating a really memorable and fun time. There was not one sour face coming off the bus home.

By Archie Stickley, Year 10





This term Year 9s have been learning about war poetry.

9JWR took inspiration from all the poems they have read and used it to write their own war poem by following a set rhyme scheme and structure.

Long Forgotten Dreams

By Lillie Potter 9JWR

The wailing of the shells
A siren's song
No toll of death bells
For souls who are gone

The repeating rattling fire
Of cruel machinery
That pile moves bodies onto the pyre
Made of long forgotten greenery

Less do they dream of doves
And more the crying of crows
Less do they see their true loves
And more do they see shadows

No longer do sunflowers live their path
With only barren wasteland ahead
As forgotten poppies lay on the hearth
That grew on lands stained red

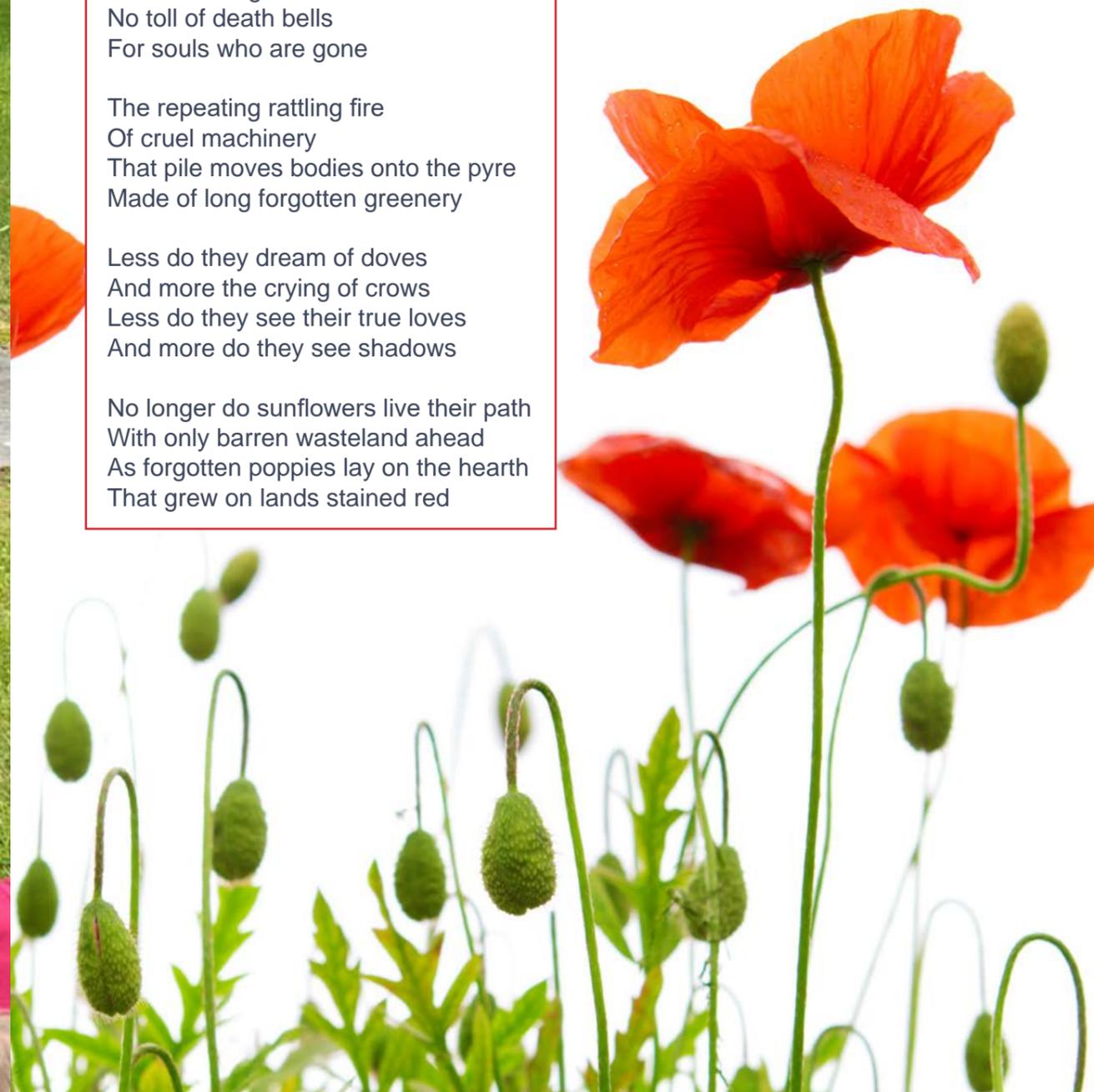
LOSS

By Freya and Felicity 9JWR

Guns forever ablaze
Guns always are firing
Trenches act like a maze
Trenches great for hiding

Weapons are spluttering
Weapons only take lives
Death counts aren't plummeting
Death going up in fives

Why do we continue,
To contribute to loss?
When the only result
Is blood gathered in the moss...





We have really missed our Languages trips over the past few years and were delighted to get to Boulogne for a day trip this term with one half of Year 8. Students went to the hypermarket first of all to buy their picnics and then enjoyed a visit to the old town of Boulogne - a walk and picnic on the ramparts, followed by visits to the castle, cathedral and shops in the town centre. We travelled by Eurotunnel on the way out and ferry on the way back so we also got to experience a variety of modes of transport!

We are looking forward to travelling to Aachen with the other half of Year 8 during Term 1 next year (rescheduled dates to be confirmed asap!) and the relaunch of our very popular French and German Exchanges for Years 10 and 12.

By Mrs T McGarrick, Curriculum Team Leader for Languages



Aimee's Passion For Rugby

Aimee, Year 10, has found a true passion for rugby since playing for Wallingford Girls RFC. She has become their main kicker and scored a lot of their conversions, and has since been selected to play for Oxfordshire County. To top it off, out of 12 individuals in the whole county, Aimee has been selected for the England Development Programme for Oxfordshire Girls RFC, with a recommendation to Gloucester College once completed.

We are so proud of her amazing achievement.

*By Miss M Rutter
(Work Experience Student)*



Alumni News - Alex Bosley

We've been hearing what Wallingford School Sixth Form alumnus Alex Bosley (class of 2021) has been up to. Here is Mr Bosley, Alex's father:

"I just thought you might appreciate a brief update on what Alex has been up to since leaving Wallingford.



He is over in France, working hard to pursue his goal of a career in pro cycling. He went out in February, and is living in Brittany, in a town called Plancoet, living in lodgings with a British ex-pat couple.

He has a blog which he updates weekly, which gives a far better insight into his life than I ever could. We hope that by the end of the season he will have achieved sufficient results to take the next step on this career ladder."

You can follow Alex's career on his blog: [Alex Bosley – British rider living in France](#)

Bouncing into the Southern Trampolining Regional Championship

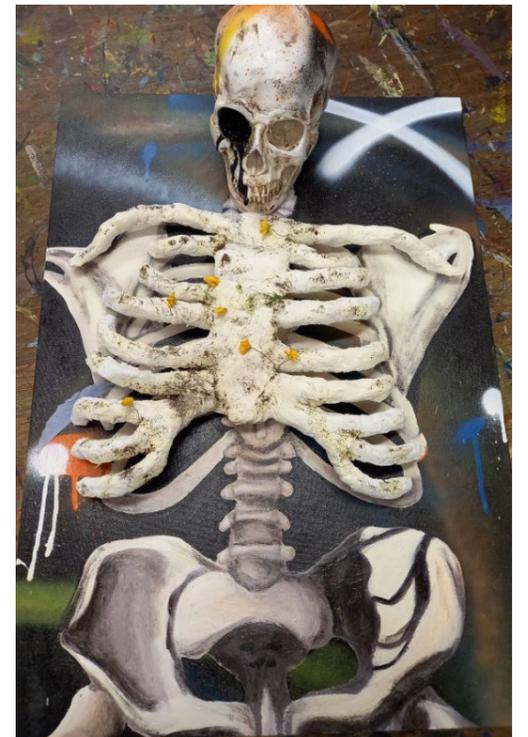
Last month, Brooke, Year 7, qualified for the Southern Trampolining Regional Championship. We are delighted to hear that Brooke came in 3rd place, and here she is with her well-earned trophy!

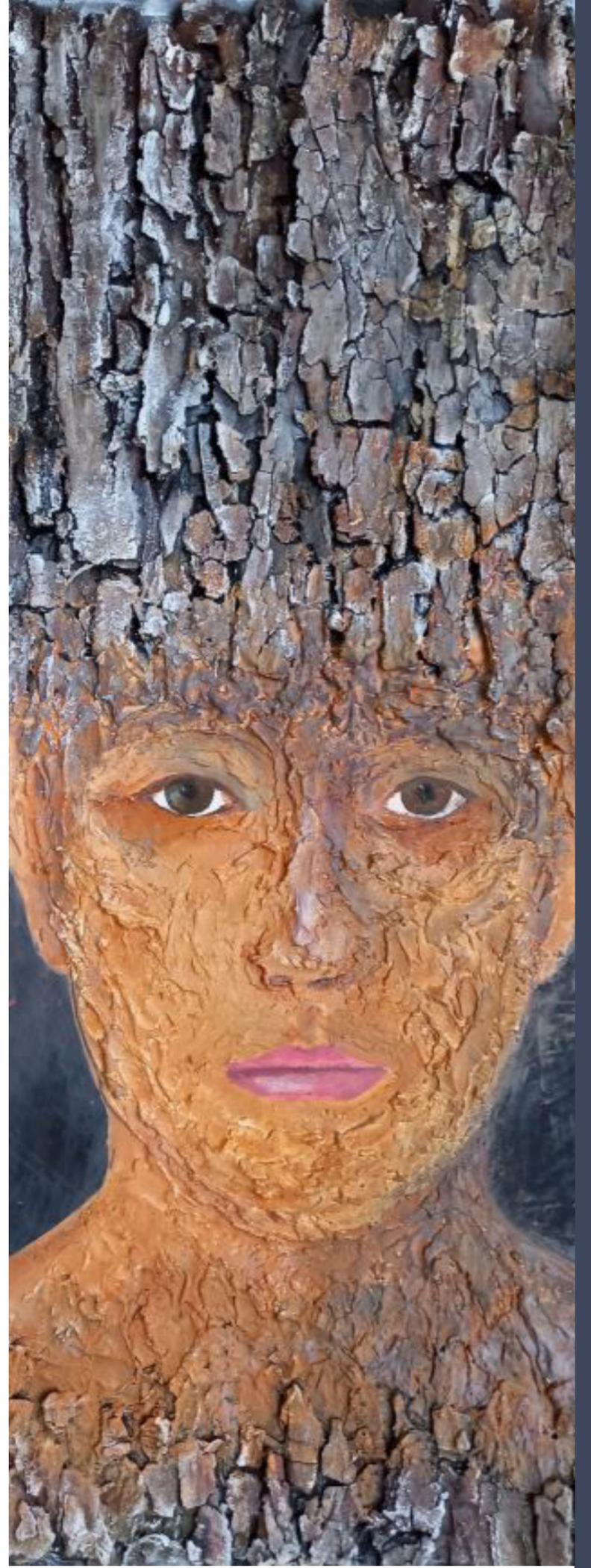
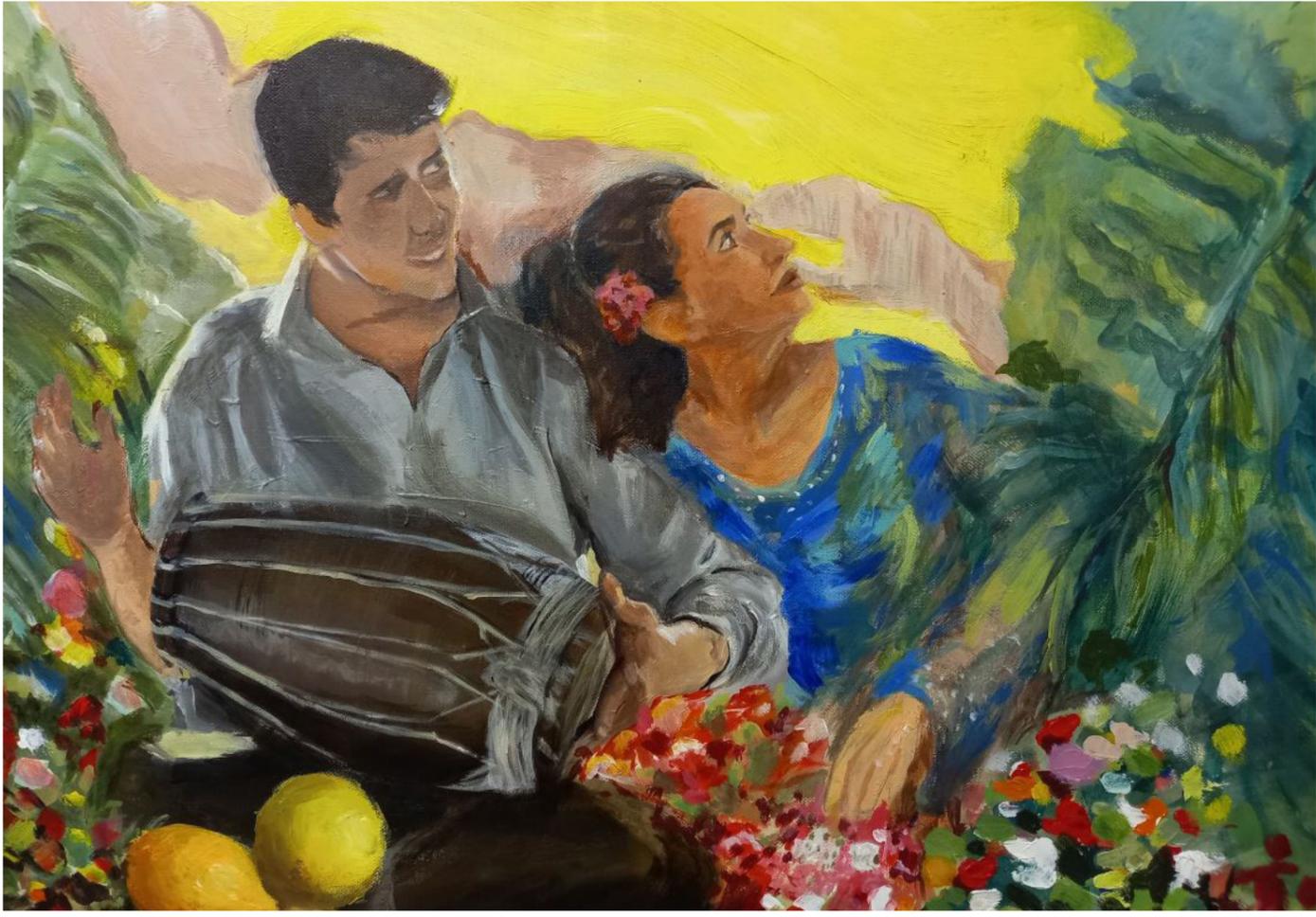
Will, Year 10, came in 1st place at the championship too! He has qualified to represent the south in a national competition this September - we look forward to hearing more later in the year!

A big congratulations to both Brooke and Will!



These marvels are just some of the results of hard work by our outstandingly talented Year 11 GCSE Art pupils. Portraits of fists, portraits exploring bark texture, stunning local architecture, superhero role models, a 3D response to Van Gogh's skull, blooming botanical studies, big planets, homages to family and Giacometti... we have it all. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Huge congratulations to all our immensely creative Year 11s.





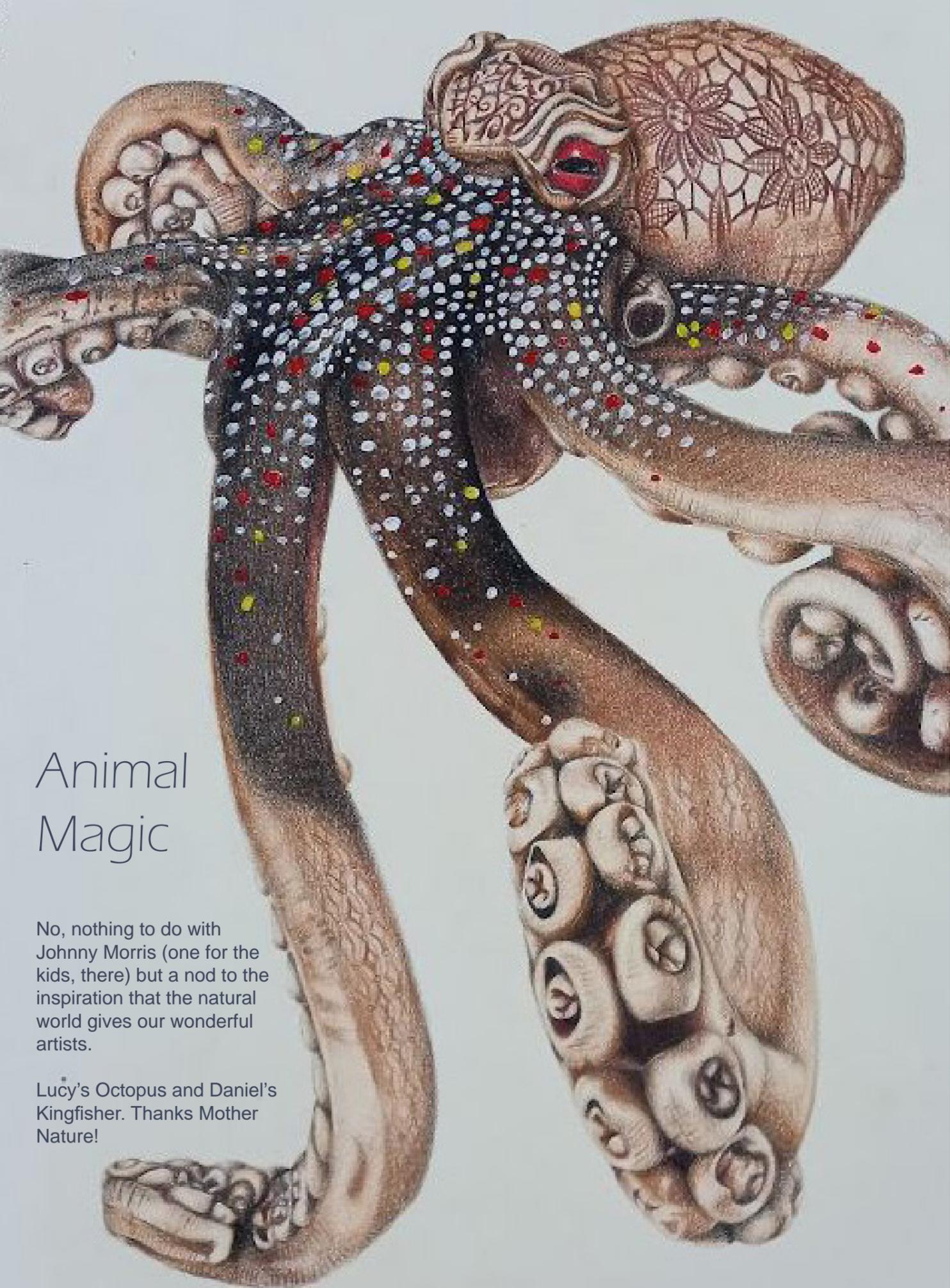
Mia's Soundsuit

Who is inside? We know that incredibly talented Mia from Year 13 made this soundsuit. We know that it was part of her Art coursework. We even know that Mia was influenced by the artist Nick Cave (not him, another one). Mia was taking photos... so WHO IS TWISTING INSIDE?



Just what do Art teachers do in their spare time? Mr Hinchliffe and Mrs Williams like to argue over prehistoric hairstyles and tail lengths. Here are some photos of Gareth (the Mammoth), our huge contribution to the Henge 22 festival taking place under the Wittenham Clumps on Friday September 23rd. We will be looking for lots of willing helpers to get Gareth processing around the Henge festival... Watch this space!

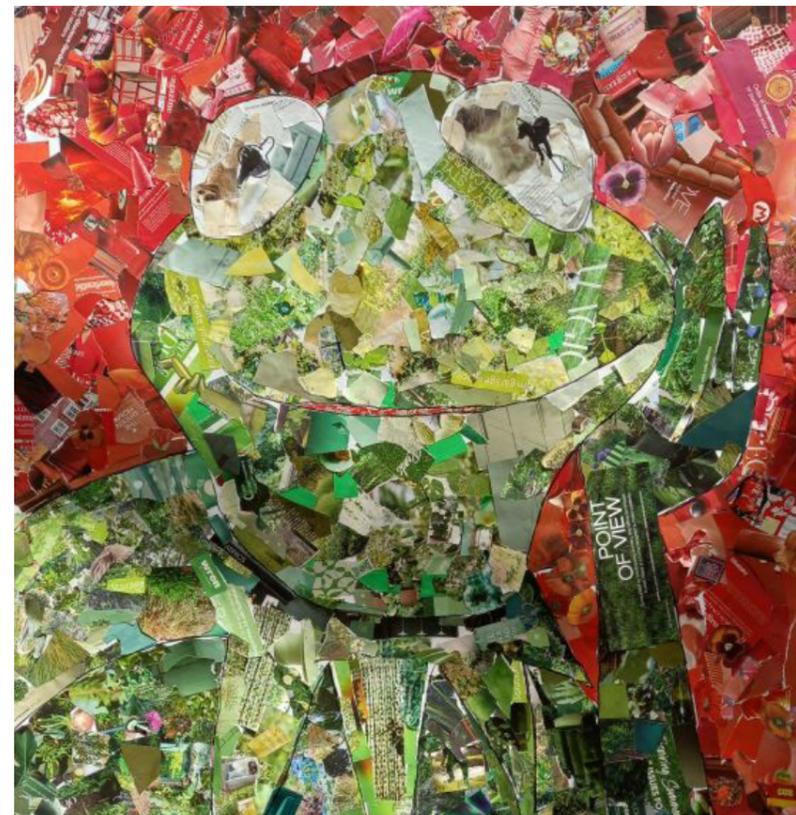




Animal Magic

No, nothing to do with Johnny Morris (one for the kids, there) but a nod to the inspiration that the natural world gives our wonderful artists.

Lucy's Octopus and Daniel's Kingfisher. Thanks Mother Nature!



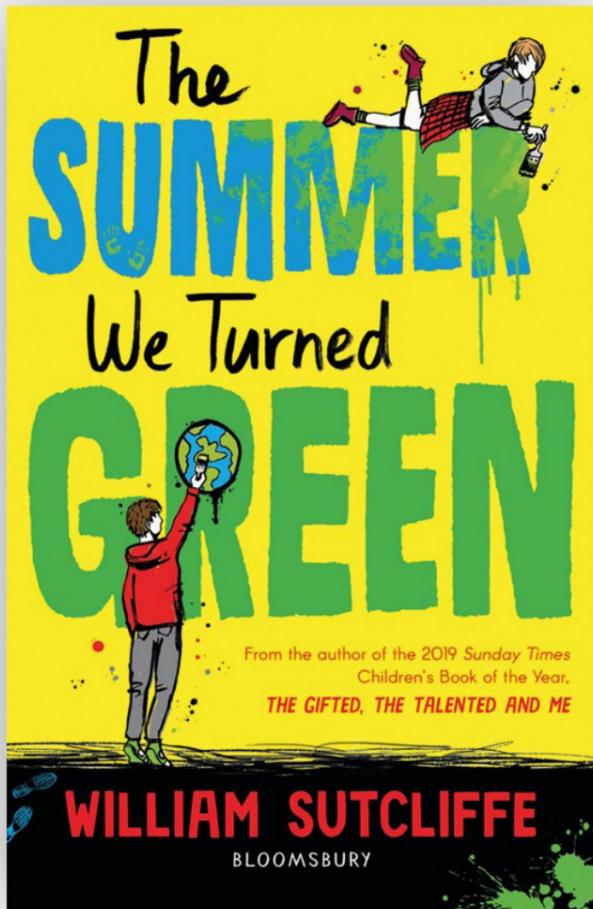
Art Club have worked long and hard to make a completely collaged Kermit the Frog. That is a lot of looking for green bits of pages in magazines. That is a lot of cutting out green bits of pages in magazines. Not to mention the sticking - many glue-sticks died for the cause.

Well done intrepid Art Clubbers. We salute your style, imagination and tenacity!

And why Kermit? Why not Kermit?

By Mr S Bowen, Head of Art



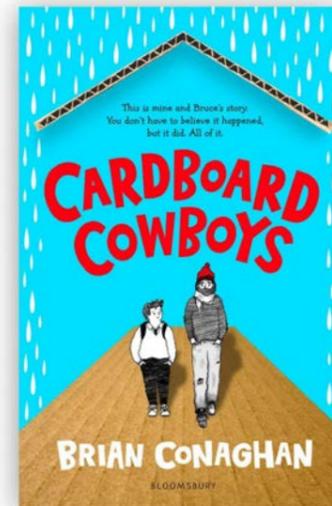
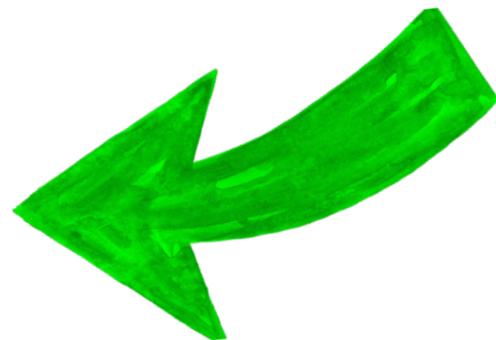


A fresh, funny, heartfelt look at this generation's must-win battle: one earth, one chance.

It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Then his dad followed her.

Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them.

Can Luke save his family when all they want to do is save the planet?



"Even though I found him living in a house made of cardboard, Bruce is a massive legend. FACT. So this is mine and Bruce's story. You don't have to believe it happened, but it did. All of it."

Nobody at school can see past Lenny's size to the person within. So when lessons get too tough, Lenny always goes to his bench to think. At least there no one can see him. Then one day, midway through lobbing his empty can of Irn-Bru into the canal he's stopped by Bruce. Bruce lives in a cardboard home hidden away by the banks, and he doesn't approve of kids messing up his front lawn.

But a bumpy start soon gives way to an unexpected friendship - and an epic road trip - that will change both of them for life...

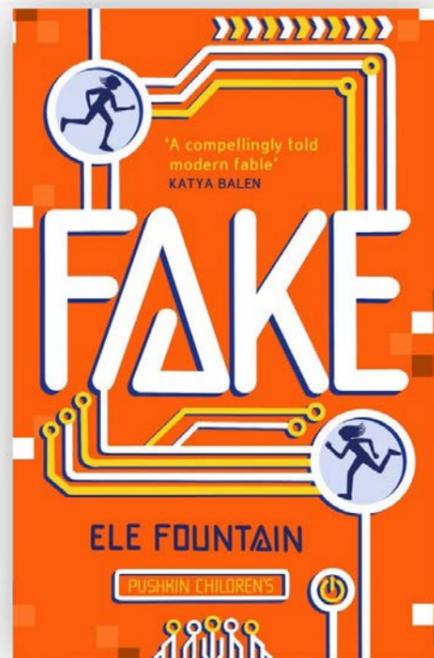
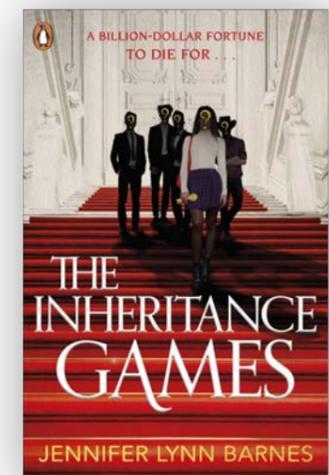
An addictive and twisty thriller, full of dark family secrets and deadly stakes. Perfect for fans of Karen McManus and Holly Jackson.

A BILLION-DOLLAR FORTUNE TO DIE FOR .

She came from nothing. Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why.

They had everything. Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives - a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money.

Now there's only one rule: winner takes all. Soon she is caught in a deadly game that everyone in this strange family is playing. But just how far will they go to keep their fortune?

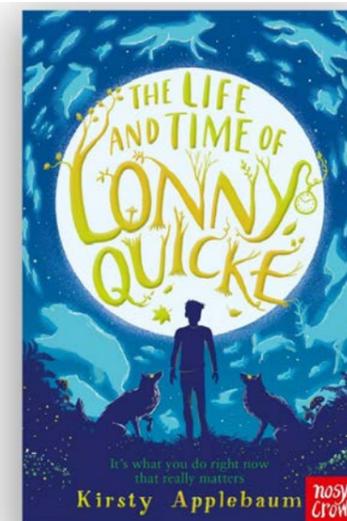


Imagine a world where your only friends are virtual, and big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure. This is Jess's world.

But when she turns fourteen, Jess can go to school with other children for the first time. Most of them hate the 'real' world, but Jess begins to question whether the digital world is 'perfect' after all.

Back home, her sister Chloe's life-saving medication is getting ever more expensive. Determined to help, Jess risks everything by using skills forbidden in the cyber-world, only to stumble on something explosive. Something that will turn her whole world upside down.

It's up to Jess to figure out exactly what is real, and what is fake - Chloe's survival depends on it



Lonny is a lifeling. He has the power to heal any living creature and bring it back from the dead. But he pays a price for this gift - by lengthening the creature's life, he shortens his own. So Lonny has to be careful, has to stay hidden in the forest. Because if people knew what he could do, Lonny would be left with no life at all...

A brilliant novel from the author of The Middler about family, secrets and a terrible power.



Members of our Student Leadership Group have begun their responsibilities in earnest and this week they were given the opportunity to experience a fitting at Savile Row. The students are really looking forward to taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show on 12th November and six of them were fitted for a superb outfit designed for the Merchant Taylors'. After the fitting at Dege & Skinner, we were treated to a tour of the premises by the chairman, Michael Skinner. It was wonderful to meet the talented men and women making the bespoke clothing and gain an insight into the time and care that goes into every detail. We were even able to meet the man behind the design for the outfit and ask questions about his choices and inspiration - a brand new experience and the start of an exciting few months as the Student Leadership Group of a Merchant Taylors' Academy school.

By Ms A Mummery, Head of Sixth Form





The Music Department took a group of Year 8 musicians to The Bate Collection to play a gamelan. Students were taught about musical cycles, ostinato, performing as an ensemble and interlocking textures. They even performed an improvised piece!



The Music Department were blown away by the talent and creativity of the musicians in the World Music Day Songwriting Competition! Ms Hammond particularly liked the structure of the songs, and how much thought had gone into the lyrics.

The finalists were Callum 7EMC, Leilani and Lottie 7EH, Ferne, Carys, Anna and Lena 9MSI, and Lizzie in 9MHG.

We are delighted to announce the winners are the Year 9 girls from 9MSI, also known as Dynamic Force, with 'Paranoid'. Congratulations!

A big well done to everyone who took part!

Special mention to:

- Year 7 Best Lyrics -Brooke, Eva, Eliza and Millie 7THU
- Year 7 Best Group - Emily, Anna, Emmeline, Hannah and Whitney 7EH
- Year 7 Best Solo - Callum 7EMC
- Year 7 Best Duet - Leilani and Lottie 7EH
- Year 8 Best Solo - Josh 8YFR
- Year 9 Best Solo - Lizzie 9MHG

By Miss M Rutter (Work Experience Student)





The Wallingford Stars programme aims to acknowledge and praise students for their hard work in school. Students can be nominated by any teacher for any subject, and is based on their attitude and enthusiasm in lessons.

Since the return of school trips, we have been able to boost the Stars programme and praise students with enriching opportunities in a way we have been unable to in recent years.

In January, the first cohort of Stars were invited to the Silverstone Interactive Museum, a fantastic experience where students saw a whole range of historic racing memorabilia. We had a tour round part of the track as well as a workshop to explain the technology behind the racing cars. It's a fantastic day out and one we highly recommend to families.

In May, our second cohort from years 7-10 were invited to Warwick Castle, where students explored the castle grounds and saw the phenomenal bird of prey show. Students were also given a short talk about the main history of the site.

Every year we take KS3 Stars to a theme park as a final treat and chance to wind down before the summer holidays. This year we visited Gulliver's Land and, even though we left early to avoid being out in the baking sun too long, we still had a brilliant day out.

If you have not been nominated to be a Star, don't worry - keep working hard and participating in lessons and your time will come.

By Miss A Walker, Stars Coordinator





The Careers Department arranged a Human Careers Library Event for our Year 8 pupils last week. We welcomed 29 volunteers from a variety of careers who could share their wisdom and experience. Small groups of students had just 5 minutes to find out as much as possible from an employer by asking questions, before moving onto the next one. This kept the event exciting and fast paced but with enough time for pupils to find out about lots of career pathways and choices. The experience of talking to an adult about their job makes it more realistic.

The students asked some very thoughtful questions and were extremely engaged in the activity. The volunteers were very impressed with Wallingford students and all of them offered to help with any other events. They were really pleased to be able to participate in such an interactive group event after the last few years.

We would like to thank the following companies for participating:

The Hill Group, University of Oxford, Oxford Health NHS, Graceful Garden Design, Procter and Gamble, Wallingford Town Council, Lightfoots LLP, 5SAH, Style Acre, Nuclear Waste Services, face2faceHR, Adviza, Magara Law, Thames Water, Louise Haylett Counselling, UCFB, Civil Service (MOD), Milestone Infrastructure, Berkshire NHS, Solent University and LSL Solicitors.

By Mrs T Ward, Careers Adviser



Challenge of the Week

Many students have taken on the Maths department's Challenge of the Week throughout the year. Over 950 house points have been given out! Well done to everyone who has taken part. Challenge of the Week will return in September.

UKMT Maths Challenge

Lots of students have taken part in the UKMT Maths Challenges this year and they have had massive success! Students have achieved 46 Bronze awards, 48 Silver awards and 35 Gold awards. 34 students made it through to the next round with 18 of them achieving a certificate of merit. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

By Miss K Pratt, Teacher of Mathematics

Let's talk Philosophy!

To talk philosophy, you first need to know what it is. The word philosophy is derived from two Greek words – philo and sophy. The first being love and the second being wisdom so philosophy means a love of wisdom. Simply put, philosophy is the study of anything in the world that can be questioned. Do we actually 'know' anything? Does our life have meaning? Are we living in a computer simulation? Are animals conscious beings? Are our minds separate to our brains? The list is endless!! If you love debating, questioning and criticising philosophical ideas, then why not join the Philosophy Vlub from September 2022?

It will be open to Years 9-11 and is a great starting point for those who may be thinking about taking Philosophy at A Level. There may even be biscuits provided.

By Miss Y Frackiewicz, Teacher of Religious Studies



Christie are Sports Day Champions 2022!



Variety is the spice of life: we have had a virtual Sports Day in 2020, but this year due to the heat we had a reverse Sports Day. Luckily this doesn't include catching javelins and running as fast as possible backwards. Instead we held our running, rowing, cycling and tug-of-war in the morning with the whole school outside, and did our field events in the afternoon with individual year groups. Thankfully it still worked and the students and staff embraced a timetable which went P4-P1.

Highlights from the day include:

- The participation throughout: we had dozens of bikes lined up for cycling and 20 runners in each race for the 800m.
- Our new events of Speed Climbing and Rowing Erg were extremely popular.
- Ollie Maier set a new 100m record of 11.78 seconds in Year 9.

Since the relaunch of the House System seven years ago, Christie had never won Sports Day. Under the leadership of Miss Perse and possibly the most enthusiastic 6th form house captains, Christie finally crossed the line first.

By Mr S Dodson, Head of Physical Education



1st Christie
2nd Matilda
3rd Blackstone
4th Bigg



I am really pleased to see the House system flourishing again after the interruptions of the last couple of years. With Sports Day completed (and the staff tug-of-war being postponed) we will have offered students 41 different House competitions. This is a fantastic achievement from the House Leaders and staff that helped run events throughout the year.

What the offer gives students is difficult to measure. Students have the chance to compete for their House, adding to an ever-increasing total. They have an opportunity to showcase their talents in areas they are passionate about. Ultimately, they are given the chance to compete, thrive and feel part of community within a community.

Alongside the House competitions, students have found currency in gaining house points on their Satchel One account. These are given for effort, academic achievement, participation at events or even acts of kindness.

We are proud to say we have three students with over 300 House points, earning them the Platinum Award, while a huge 233 have obtained Diamond Award (over 150 House points).

Huge congratulations to Christie House who, after 7 years of trying to win a single trophy, suddenly win two in the same week! They not only won Sports Day but completed the double by being the overall House Winners!

It has been a great competition. Next year we will all be back stronger.

By Mr Lyons, Head of the House System

Final House Point Totals:

1st	Christie	4095
2nd	Matilda	4070
3rd	Blackstone	3820
4th	Bigg	3495

Term 6 Overall House Point Winners by Year Group:

Each term, the top house point earner from every year group receives an Amazon voucher for their efforts. Well done to these 4 students for taking the title in Term 6.

Year 7	Joseph Rhodes	63
Year 8	Zachary Field	60
Year 9	Sid Preston	41
Year 10	Fin Green	35

Satchel House Points Total by House & Year Group:

	BI	MA	BL	CH
Year 7	7905	9881	6916	6634
Year 8	8292	6675	7616	11094
Year 9	6155	4918	4847	8662
Year 10	2881	3414	3102	3494
Year 11	2108	1774	2229	2415

Highest achiever for the academic year:

These are the 5 students who have topped their year group for this academic year. A huge achievement, well done.

Year 7	Renne Chan	352
Year 8	Daniel Snellgrove	314
Year 9	Ella Robson	304
Year 10	Sophie Partis	172
Year 11	Beatrice Tharme	138

World Technology Day

In Term 5, students decorated cakes, designed glasses or made banners for Sports Day. These were hugely popular and showed some real creativity.

World Dance Day

Miss Jolly and her dancers treated us to a flash mob dance in the hall. The Year 7 and 8 students who were queueing for their Friday chips were given a shock and a treat. Sadly no photos allowed of this event, by the Year 10 Dancers' command!

Queen's Jubilee

To celebrate this unique event, students made their own version of a Jubilee Pudding or Jubilee Cakes.

World Music Day

This was a great opportunity for students to showcase their talent at song writing and performing. The pool of talent was high, with a good number of entries. Overall winners were Ferne, Carys, Anna, Lena, together known as "Dynamic Force", with their song "Paranoid". Their fantastic prize will be to record their song in a local studio this September!

Duolingo Competition

Madame McGarrick has been promoting the use of learning a second language, as well as trying to help our newly placed Ukrainian friends settle in. What better way than a house Duolingo competition, where students compete online to learn Ukrainian words and their English translation!



Bigg House

The final term has been fantastic for House events. Students from Bigg House have competed in the World Music Day song competition, talent show, mascot-making competition, quizzes, bingo, and scavenger hunt. We may be last in the current leaderboard, but I am proud that our students' enthusiasm and the Bigg House spirit has not faltered. This was particularly evident at Sports Day. The tenacity and sportsmanship coming from our house was fantastic, and I would like to commend every Bigg House student for giving their best on the day.

Ms J Ward, House Leader of Bigg



Blackstone House

I can't believe it's already the end of my first full year as Blackstone House Leader! I feel like we came back with a bang this year with loads of events going on each term. In my newsletter entry this time last year I wrote about hoping that Blackstone students would continue to show engagement, positivity and resilience in all that we had planned for the year. I'm so thrilled to say that I have definitely seen this. There has been participation in all events and we are lucky that we have been able to do so much.

By the time this goes out, we will know who has won Sports Day, but I am writing this the day before! Winning Sports Day was fantastic for Blackstone last year and it was great to see so many sign up to events again this year. Even if we don't keep our title, I'm really looking forward to the atmosphere that I experienced at my first sports day last year.

We have been working hard to develop the House system this year, and already have lots of ideas for next year. I'm very much looking forward to doing it all again, but better!

I hope everyone has a restful summer break and comes back ready to start Blackstone's climb to the top all over again in September!

Miss C Sutton, House Leader of Blackstone



Christie House

Wow! What an incredible year we've had! A year filled with events, competitions, achievements, celebrations, and history being made!

This year the Christie spirit has been truly amazing. You have embraced every opportunity and have earned a huge number of house points. All your hard work during lessons, extracurricular activities and house events, plus your contribution to the wider community, have been rewarded with an astonishing number of you achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond (300+ house points) house point badges. Well done!

This term you have shown your creativity with some amazing creations during Technology Day – from funky sunglasses and impressive cupcake designs to creating mascots out of recycled materials. And we have seen some incredible musical talents through the song writing competition!

Then there was Sports Day – and what a day that was! It's one of the biggest house events of the school year when the whole house comes together as one team, and this year it was extra special.

It was great to see each of you embrace the day, get involved and cheer, support, celebrate and encourage each other. You each demonstrated the true meaning of being a team and supported each other in an incredibly close and exciting competition. It was brilliant to see all your hard work and determination pay off, as Christie were crowned Sports Day Champions for the first time EVER!

I could not be prouder of every single one of you for your outstanding achievements on Sports Day, and throughout the whole year. You have each shown how much we can achieve when we get involved, support and encourage each other. I am so excited for the next year and all the opportunities we'll have to continue to do this.

I wish all the Year 11 and Year 13s receiving their exam results in the summer the very best of luck, but I have every faith you all did an awesome job and wish you all the best in your next step.

For the rest of you, have an amazing and restful summer and I look forward to seeing you next year!

Miss Persse, House Leader of Christie



Matilda House

Wow what a year, Matilda House!! Seeing such a variety of you getting involved in all the different house events has been fantastic. It shows what a range of events and activities we have to suit you all and highlights what the House System is all about. It has been a privilege to have been your House Leader this year. You have all worked so hard which has been reflected in the house points you all have received allowing us to be in top place for most of the year.

Sports Day saw a fantastic display of team spirit and effort across both track and field events!! As my first sports day at the school I was hugely impressed by the way everyone got involved from sign-ups to banner making, especially those in yellow! You really did yourselves proud Matilda, leading the scoreboard into the field events and with a very well deserved second place overall!!! Brilliant work and I can't wait to see what you do next year.

I wish you all a lovely summer and a well deserved break. Stay safe and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Miss Hearn & Mr Hinchliffe, House Leader of Matilda



Farewell

A fond farewell to those staff leaving us this year. Some are off to other jobs, some have been promoted and some leave to enjoy retirement. We wish them all success in their next ventures!

Mrs J Laugharne (Drama)	started 2005
Mr M Bunston (Schools Games Organiser)	started 2005
Dr L Staley (Science)	started 2015
Miss S Madden (History)	started 2015
Mr P Gallagher (Science Technician)	started 2015
Ms Milenna Pennec (Languages)	started 2017
Miss A Maly (Languages)	started 2018
Mrs S Hands (English)	started 2019
Ms J Preston (English, Media Studies & Sociology)	started 2020
Miss L Wetherill (English)	started 2021
Mrs T Hussain (English)	started 2021

We also say farewell to two of our Phoenix Counsellors, Justine Gore-Smith and Rebecca Jenkinson.

Happy holidays everyone!