

Wallingford School - House Newsletter

Friday 28th May 2021

Assembly: Trust

By Mr N Lamb, Deputy Headteacher



I have found one of the most challenging aspects of the last year or so, which has been full of lock-downs, school closures, social distancing and so on, has been the lack of social interaction. Our ability to maintain and build relationships with other people has been limited, whether they are family, friends, colleagues or those we happen to cross paths with. We haven't had as many opportunities to spend time together in person, getting to know each other, providing support and creating bonds.

But, we have made it through to the next stage of the Covid 'road-map' towards normality (whatever that is). We are now able to have more contact with other people, to meet up in larger groups, in different places and even hug each other. Whilst reflecting on the opportunities to re-build relationships with those around me, one important feature keeps emerging – **trust**.

At the time of writing, I have just booked my first COVID vaccine appointment. I am not looking forward to it, especially as it feels outside of my control. I am expected to **trust** that the scientists who have developed the vaccine know what they are doing and **trust** that the NHS staff delivering the jab will do so carefully. I must place my confidence in others who I have never actually met.



Another part of my day has been spent observing some lessons in school. One of these was a fantastic Year

7 climbing lesson. I watched students putting their **trust** in each other, knowing that if that **trust** was misplaced there could be a significant accident or injury. (It wasn't misplaced!)



I taught a group of Year 13 students who are coming towards the end of their seven years with us at Wallingford School. They, and our Year 11 students, are having to place a huge amount of **trust** in their teachers, who will shortly be deciding on the grades that should be issued to students in the summer. I know that students can have complete confidence in our staff and in their ability to go about the process with honesty and integrity. There is an underpinning **trust** that teachers will act fairly.

Later on this evening I will sit down at home and watch the news. I expect the information presented to me to be well-researched, factual and reliable. I must **trust** that what I am being told is the truth and if I have any doubts, I will need to find an alternative source of information that I can place my faith in.

It is clear that our days are full of opportunities to trust and be trusted. It is one of the most important aspects of human interaction, underpinning a close relationship.

"Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships." Stephen Covey

Trust is integral to happy and fulfilling relationships, whether they are professional or personal. Without trust, relationships fail because one or both parties feel insecure or let down.

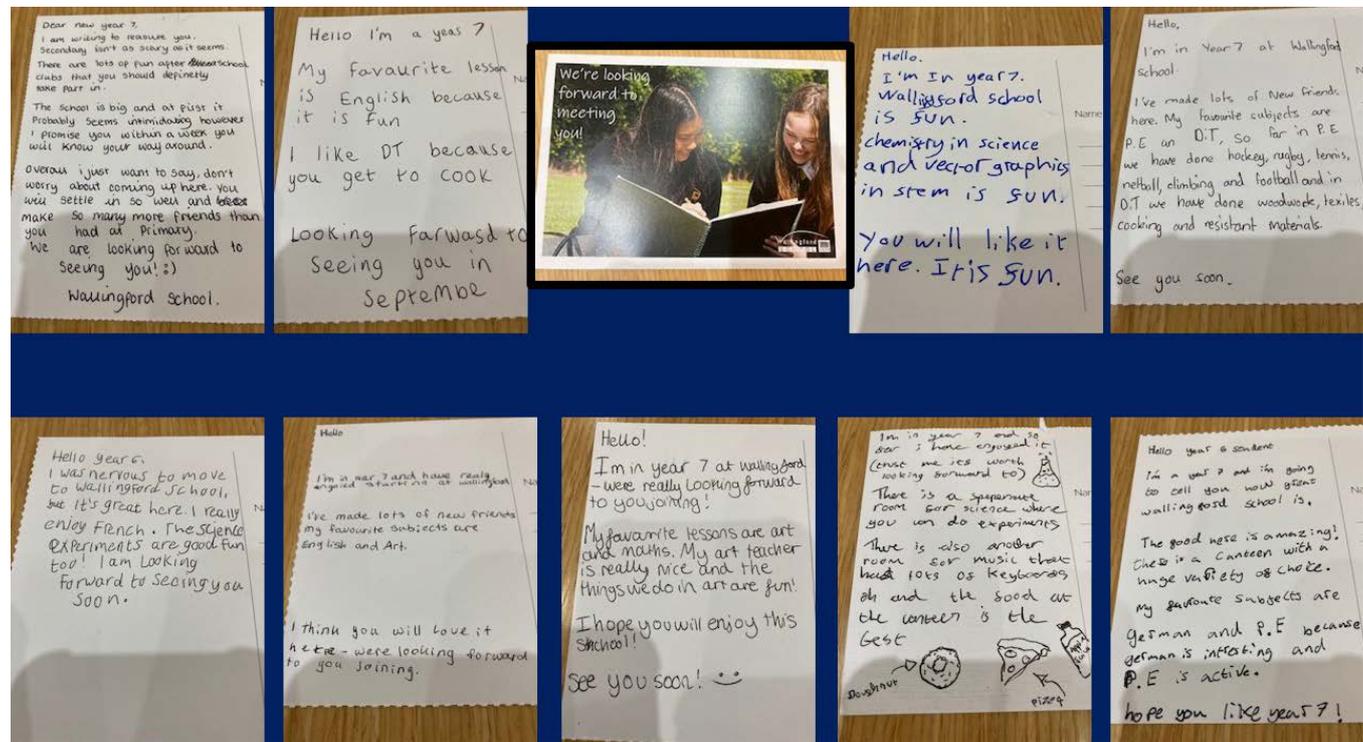
It is important to think about how to build trust. Perhaps by being open and transparent in the beginning; being dependable, consistent, and reliable; keeping your promises; taking responsibility when things don't work out quite how you planned; and putting yourself in a vulnerable position, allowing others to step up and take care of you when you need them.

So, I would ask you to carefully consider the role that trust plays in your relationships and to reflect on those numerous day-to-day moments when trust is required. Your relationship with others, and yourself, will be all the better for it.

A Very Warm Welcome...

By Ms R Miller, Deputy Headteacher

Our Year 7s have been really busy making sure we send a very warm welcome to our Year 6s who will be joining us in September! Ms Walker and Ms Miller spent a very enjoyable few hours reading the postcards that will be sent to each of our incoming students. It seems that the canteen (doughnuts featured very highly!), the variety of subjects and making new friends are the stand out experiences about joining Wallingford School. Well done to Year 7 for producing such warm, supportive and friendly postcards!



Watch This Space!

By Ms R Miller, Deputy Headteacher

Teaching and learning is at the core of what we do, but we are also passionate about the enrichment opportunities that every child should have access to as part of their school life. We know that these are the experiences that help build and grow friendships, that allow children the opportunity to push themselves out of their comfort zone and simply mean they have fun.



Until recently government guidance has restricted the enrichment opportunities we have been able to offer students. Now that there has been an easing of certain restrictions, we are keen to put enrichment back on the centre stage alongside teaching and learning and pastoral care.

In term 6 there will be a whole week of enrichment across the school - it will be full of surprises designed to bring us together as a community and to allow our young people to have fun in each other's company.

We're really looking forward to sharing our plans with you shortly... until then, watch this space!

Farewell Year 11 & 13...

It has been a great pleasure over the years to take you on trips abroad to France and Germany and to help you develop your language skills in the real world. We hope that your memories of these trips will stay with you in adult life and that you think of us when you are travelling abroad in the future :)

Bon courage / Alles Gute

The MFL Department



The Rainforest Project

By Mr S Bowen, Head of Art & Design

Year 12 artists have been responding to the lush vegetation and colourful inhabitants of our world's rainforests with stunning results. Exploring printmaking, batik and silk painting among other disciplines, our intrepid artists have created some beautiful ideas for final pieces of work. We will keep you posted!



Matisse

When Matisse painted his wife, Mme Matisse, in 1905 he just thought that he was simply breaking the rules of painting. Little did this 'Master of Colour' realise that decades later he would be inspiring the gifted artists in Year 10.

It is very hard to believe that for many of these 13/14 year olds that this is their first actual experience of painting on canvas. Using his theories of colour, these GCSE students have created powerful and vibrant self-portraits. Captivating work.



Royal Mail - Heroes Stamp Design Competition

Busy artists in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been entering a Royal Mail stamp competition which honours our heroes during the coronavirus pandemic. The Royal Mail will be creating a new series of 8 stamps.

Our talented artists have been making thoughtful and colourful drawings and paintings of nurses, delivery drivers, scientists... and even the odd teacher here and there.

Just imagine the millions of people that will see the winning designs - and let's face it - we've got some winning designs right here!



Back To The Studio!

By Miss E Jolly, Teacher of Dance

After working hard on the theory side of the GCSE Dance course over lockdown it has been lovely to get back into the studio with Year 10. And it is **so** nice to be back dancing again. We have been looking at all of the physical, technical and expressive skills which are necessary to deliver a quality performance. The students have then been working together in small groups to initially formulate a choreographic intention for their performance pieces. These range from the idea of friends growing apart, to running away from problems, to the idea of together you are stronger. They have then been working really hard over the last 3 weeks to choreograph the pieces which, although not yet finished, are coming along fantastically well. For obvious reasons, we are still a little restricted and cannot do any form of contact work yet, but I hope you'll agree that these dances are really starting to take shape within the bounds of the current situation.



Please take a look at a couple of our choreographed pieces here:

[Year 10 Dance_1](#) and [Year 10 Dance_2](#)

Year 12 Production

Our A Level Drama students have been working hard on a production of their set text – Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* – which was performed this week - with a live audience!

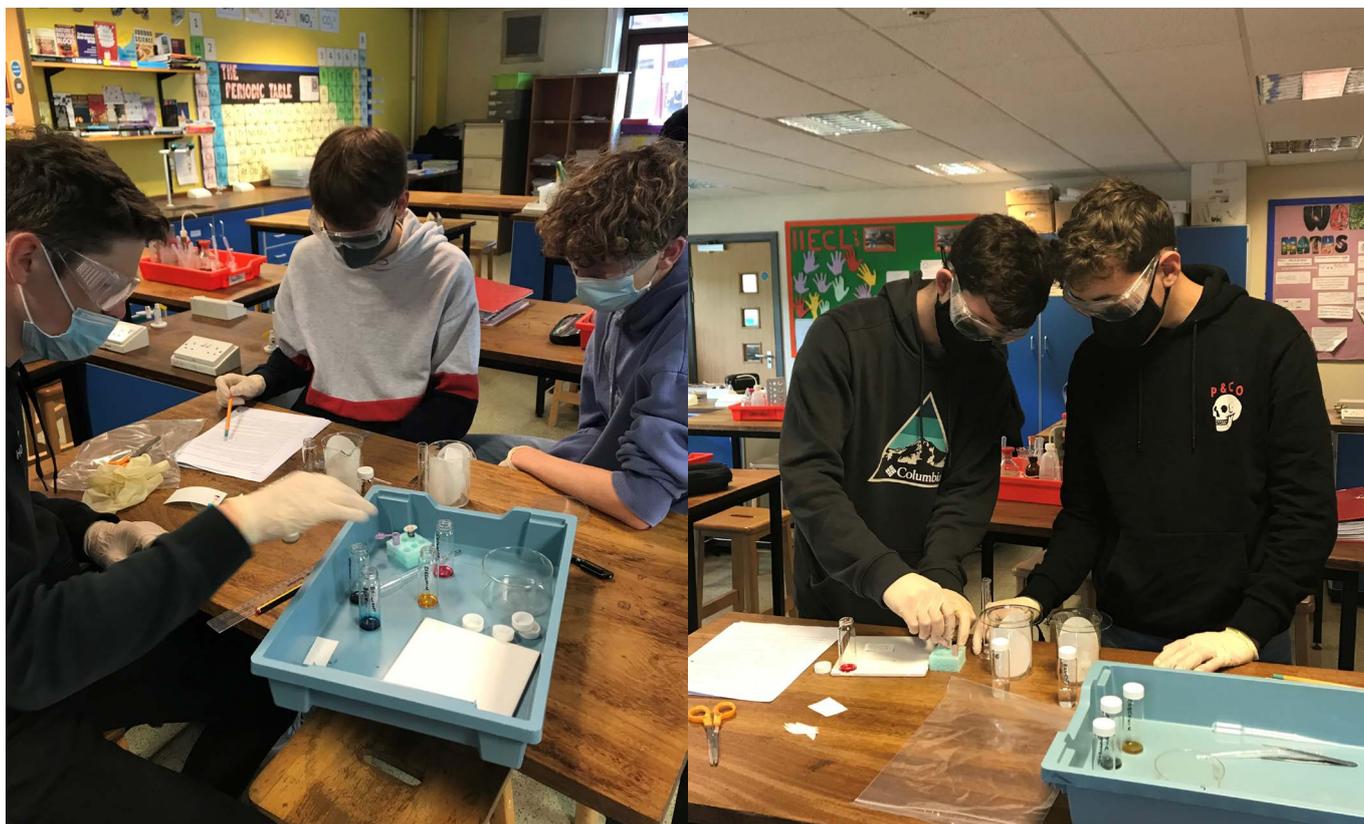
"It was very funny, pertinent and showcases the incredible talent of our students."



Year 12 Chemistry

By Miss F Jones, Teacher of Chemistry

My Year 12 Chemistry class recently completed the Royal Society of Chemistry's **Schools' Analyst Competition**. In teams of 2 or 3, students were tasked with a contextual problem and had to use their qualitative analytical skills to investigate the contents of 3 damaged chemical barrels found washed up beside the fictitious River Flumen! They had to complete some detailed chromatography practicals as well as use flame tests and solution tests for anions. We have no idea of the results yet (these won't be released until after half term) but the students acquitted themselves really well!



Maths Challenge

By Mrs J McMillan, Teacher of Mathematics

Year 7 and 8 students who sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge last month can now access their results by logging in to challenges.ukmt.org.uk. This is a great opportunity to see which questions you got right and how many points you got in total. This year the certificate thresholds were 73+ Gold, 57+ Silver, 45+ Bronze. Well done to everyone who participated; you will all be receiving House Points. We are incredibly pleased that 27 students from Wallingford will receive Bronze Certificates, 27 will receive Silver Certificates and 9 will receive Gold Certificates. Congratulations to Will Veck (Best result in Year 7) and Matthew Hindle (Best in Year 8 and Best in School) who qualified for the Kangaroo and Olympiad, respectively.

A special mention to all the Kangaroo qualifiers:

Year 7 - William Andrews and Rosie Wilkes.

Year 8 - Kabir Marriott, Priya Wilford, Rohan Clark, Bradley Franklin, Charles Mortimer and Rory Leslie.

If you're interested in taking part next year speak to your maths teacher or Dr Staley (staley1@wallingfordschool.com).

Merchant Taylors' Company Quiz

Year 8 students were invited to the annual Merchant Taylors' Company school earlier in the month. Student teams from each Merchant Taylors' Company school competed against each other via video - we hear it was a very close competition!

Our team even had pizza as a treat to start...food for thought :)

Mr Choi said, "Our students were super and worked brilliantly as a team - well done!"



Let's Talk Philosophy!

By Miss Frackiewicz, Curriculum Co-ordinator for Religious Studies and 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. Does our life have meaning? Could it be our whole life is just one big computer simulation? Are animals conscious beings? The list is endless!!



If you love debating, questioning and criticising philosophical ideas, then why not join the Philosophy Club from September 2021? 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.



CORN
EXCHANGE
WALLINGFORD

Opportunity: Young Film Programmers Group

By Miss A Absolom, Marketing Officer

We are very lucky to have great connections within our local community - the Corn Exchange Wallingford has presented many opportunities over the past few years and we love to be a part of them!

Over the past couple of weeks Corn Exchange Wallingford have been running a Young Film Programmers Group via Zoom meetings, where they already have a few 6th Form students signed-up, but they would love to hear from more of our young people at Wallingford School.

The idea is to work with young people, collate ideas, and help run screenings and associated events in the cinema. They will encourage you to develop activities, curate and market film programmes, and deliver events.

Are you interested in helping to shape this sector of the entertainment industry so that 16-30 year olds have a voice? Would you like to take part in a focus group to discuss these ideas? They'd love to hear what you think.

Please email youngfilms@cornexchange.org.uk if you'd like to take part.

As a little incentive, the Corn Exchange are offering cinema ticket vouchers to use in Wallingford!

Let us know if you take part on socialmedia@wallingfordschool.com

A few book suggestions for half term...

We always love to visit the School Library to see the next book display created by Mrs Saunders. This term we had the very helpful 'trending' and 'popular' suggestions from BookFLIX!

We hear that Mrs Saunders is plotting a book extravaganza for her final end of year display - we can't wait to see it!



SLAY

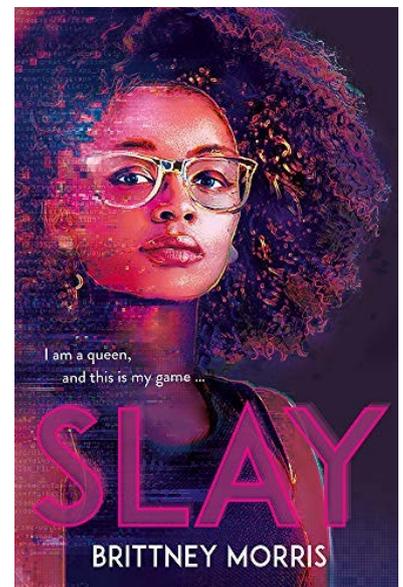
By Brittney Morris

Black Panther meets Ready Player One. A fierce teen game developer battles a real-life troll intent on ruining the Black Panther-inspired video game she created and the safe community it represents for black gamers.

By day, seventeen-year-old Kiera Johnson is a college student, and one of the only black kids at Jefferson Academy. By night, she joins hundreds of thousands of black gamers who duel worldwide in the secret online role-playing card game, SLAY.

No one knows Kiera is the game developer - not even her boyfriend, Malcolm. But when a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, the media labels it an exclusionist, racist hub for thugs.

With threats coming from both inside and outside the game, Kiera must fight to save the safe space she's created. But can she protect SLAY without losing herself?



Swimming Against The Storm

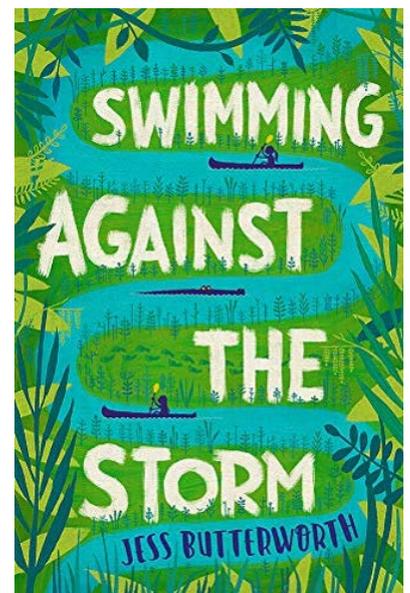
By Jess Butterworth

Our land is sinking. It's disappearing into the water. And no one knows how to save it.

Twelve-year-old Eliza and her sister Avery have lived their entire lives in a small fishing village on the coast of Louisiana, growing up alongside turtles, pelicans and porpoises. But now, with sea levels rising, their home is at risk of being swept away.

Determined to save the land, Eliza and her younger sister Avery secretly go searching in the swamp for the dangerous, wolf-like loup-garou. If they can prove this legendary creature exists, they're sure that the government will have to protect its habitat - and their community.

But there's one problem: the loup-garou has never been seen before. And with a tropical storm approaching and the sisters deep, deep in the swampland, soon it's not just their home at risk, but their lives as well...



Drone Racer

By Andy Briggs

An action-packed novel that brings drone racing to life!

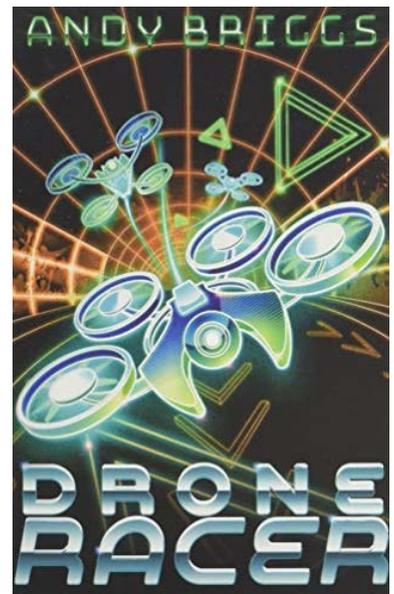
Carson and his friends love racing drones, and they can't believe their luck when they stumble across a discarded one at a junkyard.

But this new find is full of surprises. When they power the drone up, it starts talking!

And it's fast.

Really fast.

Carson's team could win big prizes in the racing leagues. Trouble is, someone wants their incredible drone back, and they'll stop at nothing to get it. How can three kids protect their new friend?



Beverly, Right Here

By Kate DiCamillo

Beverly Tapinski has run away from home plenty of times, but that was when she was just a kid. By now, she figures, it's not running away ... it's leaving.

Determined to make it on her own, Beverly finds a job and a place to live and tries to forget about her dog, Buddy, now buried underneath the orange trees back home; her friend Raymie, whom she left without a word; and her mum, Rhonda, who has never cared about anyone but herself.

Beverly doesn't want to depend on anyone, and she definitely doesn't want anyone to depend on her. But despite her best efforts, she can't help forming connections with the people around her – and, gradually, she learns to see herself through their eyes.



Illegal

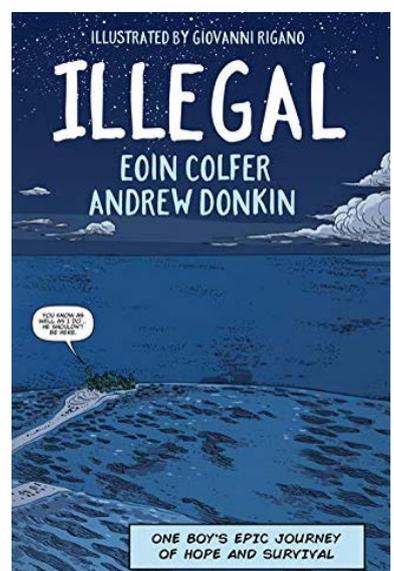
By Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin

This is a powerful and timely story about one boy's epic journey across Africa to Europe, a graphic novel for all children with glorious colour artwork throughout. From Eoin Colfer, previously Irish Children's Laureate, and the team behind his bestselling Artemis Fowl graphic novels.

Ebo: alone.

His sister left months ago. Now his brother has disappeared too, and Ebo knows it can only be to make the hazardous journey to Europe.

Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his sister.



House Points Update...

The race to become House Champions is still a competitively close call - every single point really does count!

Here are the new rankings across the board...

House / Year	Bigg	Blackstone	Christie	Matilda
7	1st	4th	3rd	2nd
8	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
9	3rd	2nd	1st	4th
10	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
11	2nd	3rd	4th	1st
House Total	3rd	4th	2nd	1st

Wow, Matilda House is well on the way to becoming House Champions - taking the top position for the fourth term running!! Fantastic work Matilda and a big congratulations!

One more term to go...!

The Latest Student House Point Awards

Here's a list of students who have crossed an award threshold since the last newsletter; we are really pleased to see even more students have reached Platinum this term.

The award thresholds are as follows;

Bronze: 25 House Points

Silver: 50 House Points

Gold: 100 House Points

Platinum: 150 House Points

Diamond: 300 House Points

A big congratulations to all students crossing a new threshold and achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum awards - the race to become the first Diamond award winner is on!

BRONZE AWARD

Spencer Amend	Christie
Ben Atkins	Christie
Courtney Bailey	Matilda
Jamie-Leigh Carrington	Blackstone
Madeleine Cooper	Bigg
Ellis Cuddon	Christie
Charley Farrow	Blackstone
Scarlett Harper	Matilda
Sam Jarvis	Matilda
Floyd Lovelock	Blackstone
Ben Maier	Blackstone
Kirsten Mansfield	Christie
Ted Parker	Christie
Ava Sharman	Bigg
Joshua Tennant	Christie
George Thomasson	Bigg
Ruby Vink	Bigg
Frederick Wakefield	Matilda

SILVER AWARD

Hamish Anderson	Bigg
Caitlin Araujo	Blackstone
Tomas Ashley	Blackstone
Oliver Baskeyfield	Blackstone
Zachary Bayquen	Bigg
Genevieve Bispham	Bigg
Maia Bridgeman Hughes	Bigg
Ronan Cronk	Christie
Shona Cummings	Christie
Alexis Czyz	Matilda
Rachel Daly	Bigg
Isabelle Day	Christie
Blake Dixon	Matilda
Connor Dixon	Matilda
James Dixon	Matilda
Ben Earl	Blackstone
Dylan Evans	Christie
Finlay Ford	Matilda
Bradley Franklin	Blackstone
Shannon Garlick	Bigg

Jasmine Gellatly	Matilda
Flora Gleave	Blackstone
Jacob Gunn	Matilda
Alvin Haboni	Blackstone
Grace Hendy	Christie
Charlie Heriot	Blackstone
Adam Hill	Blackstone
Evie Holland	Bigg
Troy Horne	Matilda
Ruby Keable	Christie
Malachy Keane	Christie
Ryan Kerry	Christie
Emma Leader	Christie
Callum Lee	Bigg
Bethan Lewis	Blackstone
Danny Masters	Matilda
Joel Menzies	Christie
Zachary Morton	Bigg
Ciaran Murphy O'Connor	Bigg
Adam O'Connor	Christie
Teigan O'Neill	Blackstone
Nell Peters	Bigg
India Pharoah Madle	Matilda
Isaac Powell	Christie
Reuben Prince	Matilda
Ines Pritchard Garcia	Christie
Isabella Quinton	Matilda
Ellie Ratcliffe	Bigg
Katie Ratcliffe	Bigg
Gemma Robins	Blackstone
Jack Salmon	Bigg
Yolanda Scrowston Ramirez	Christie
Eloise Sheppard	Christie
Millie Sheppard	Blackstone
Daisy Sherwood	Bigg
Amelia Simpson	Matilda
Sky Smith	Bigg
Eleni Somarakis	Blackstone
Eva Mae Spindlow	Christie
Edward Thomasson	Matilda
Hannah Torrance	Bigg
Max Verhoeven	Matilda
Douglas Watt	Matilda
Finbarr Wood	Bigg

Next-up GOLD...

GOLD AWARD

Booker Ellis Ansell	Matilda
Darcy Bennett	Matilda
Sophia Bishop	Matilda
Seth Bissell	Bigg
Nell Bowden	Bigg
Lauren Campbell	Christie
Emma Carr	Blackstone
Katrina Clayton	Christie
Summer Comber Lye	Bigg
Georgia Cuddon	Bigg
Isabelle Gesner	Christie
Hollie Green	Bigg
Dylan Haincock	Matilda
Fred Hendy	Matilda
Matthew Hindle	Matilda
Katiee Holton	Matilda
Chloe Huffey	Bigg
Gregory Jarman	Blackstone
William Lewis	Bigg
Narora Lorenzo	Blackstone
Macey Lowe	Christie
Zachary Lumley	Bigg
Alfie Mason	Matilda
Jun McCaw	Matilda
Millie McKeown	Bigg
Malcolm Monet	Christie
Taylor May Morris	Bigg
Callum Painter	Bigg
Herbert Potts	Christie
Ella Ramsay	Blackstone
Morgan Ratcliffe	Christie
Annabelle Robinson	Christie
Ella Robson	Christie
Joseph Shaw	Blackstone
Luke Silvester	Christie
Lily Sparrey	Christie
Lewis Strange	Matilda
Aya Taylor	Matilda
Jessica Titchener	Blackstone
William Veck	Blackstone
Ellie Vine	Blackstone
Rowan Wakerley	Matilda
Lily Walker	Blackstone
Freddie Webber	Matilda

PLATINUM AWARD

Thomas Anderson	Bigg
Paige Bachelor	Bigg
Jacob Backhouse	Bigg
Jamie Bennett	Bigg
Rohan Clark	Blackstone
Ellie Mae Cook	Bigg
Sophie Eagling	Bigg
Samuel Hillier	Matilda
Bethan Hooper	Christie
Alice Hull	Blackstone
Lily Jones	Matilda
Arthur Liddy	Bigg
Oliver MacDougall	Matilda
Harry Marsh	Bigg
Ursula O'Brien	Bigg
Abigail Spence	Christie
James Underhill	Bigg
Katie Wells	Matilda
Rosie Wilkes	Matilda

Will anyone reach...

DIAMOND AWARD

by the end of term?!!

Term 6 Newsletter

If you'd like to contribute to the next newsletter or have any ideas for a story, please contact Miss Absolom on:
socialmedia@wallingfordschool.com

This could be something you are proud of within your school life or an outside interest, a review, recommendation, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Messages from the Heads of Year...

Mr Lyons, Head of Year 11

It seems very strange writing this without any of you now in the building. I eluded to this message briefly in our one and only face to face assembly but you have been amazing over the last two years. There has never been a group of students who have had to face the uncertainty of their education in examination years like you have had to.

What has impressed all of the staff here is how you have gone about doing this. You have worked incredibly hard. You have taken formal assessments, in unusual settings, and I am sure that all of this work will be reflected in some excellent grades in August.

I am sorry that the last formal day for you may have appeared to come and go without notice. I assure you that the 24th June will be a time to get together as a year group for the first time in a long time and then, for the last time, to really honour the end of your school era.

Finally I want you to take a moment to reflect on the last 5 years and think of all the good memories you have had, the fun you have had and the relationships you have developed with staff over that time. These are yours to keep. Even in my ageing years I still look back and remember with such fond memories so much of my school life, and now as a teacher so many memories of teaching such great students.

Thank you and we all wish you a restful and fun filled summer holiday. You all deserve that much at least!

Mrs Pike, Head of Year 10

Mrs Pike will return with her wise words next term - have a great break Year 10!

Mrs Burns, Head of Year 9

Hello Year 9,

As we head into the final term of this school year I thought I would address the challenges of the Key Stage 3 exams and the future challenge of your GCSEs. As we start that transitional mind set into GCSEs it is important that it is seamless and that you continue your effort, dedication and hard work right through to the end of the school year. You should continue the commitment to all subjects regardless of your future choices and continue to maximise your learning. You have all persevered through the challenges of these subjects and it would be great to see that commitment and effort continued right through to the end. This determination and mind set will set you on a good path for the challenges the final two years offer.

Finally, I would like to congratulate you all for sitting your Key Stage 3 exams and the way you have maturely conducted yourselves throughout this period. I am very impressed with the overall attitude and commitment of Year 9 and I am once again proud to be your head of year. Have a great half term and enjoy the well-earned rest and break.

Take care!

**LIFE IS ALL ABOUT
FACING NEW
CHALLENGES.**

Ms Dudding & Mr Choi, Head of Year 8

Hello Year 8,

We're about to enter our final term of the year! On reflection it seems like this year has flown by, but in reality it has been an arduous journey for everyone. We are all very proud of you and how you have handled all of the challenges the last year has brought.

Congratulations on completing your exams this week. You all handled it with great maturity - well done. By the time you are Year 11 and sitting your GCSEs you will have all the confidence you need for excelling in your exams.

Other highlights from the term that need recognition are those that competed in the Junior Mathematics Challenge. Congratulations to all of you and a special mention to Rohan Clark, Bradley Franklin, Rory Leslie, Kabir Marriott, Charles Mortimor and Priya Wilford for all achieving Kangaroo Qualifier status and Matthew Hindle for an outstanding performance achieving Olympiad status.

Also, a huge well done to Kabir Marriott, Anna De Vince, Annabella Baroni, Morgan Ratcliffe, Sid Preston and Marta Jani for representing us in the Merchant Taylors' Year 8 annual Quiz. They competed against eleven other schools across the country and did fantastically well.

Hopefully the weather has now turned and we can continue to enjoy our last term with sunshine and smiles. Life is starting to open up again and we can be optimistic about seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Let's appreciate our last term as Year 8 with high expectations on behaviour, politeness and respect for others all being met.

Ms Walker, Head of Year 7

Hello Year 7,

Well done on another great term at Wallingford School.

It was superb that I actually got to speak with you, albeit briefly, for our first ever Year 7 assembly last Friday. It was fabulous to see you all together as one big team. I am so looking forward to to us having many more opportunities to meet together as a Year Team as we go into Term 6 and beyond.

Assemblies are such an important part of school life and I am looking forward to some of you being more actively involved in our assemblies as we move forward.

I hope that you have a lovely half term break, the weather certainly looks like it is picking up - you all deserve a well-earned break.

Happy holidays - see you in Term 6!

Have a fantastic half term break - we look forward
to a very busy and fun Term 6!