

Wallingford School Newsletter

Friday 17th December 2021

“Do they know it’s Christmas?”

I was in the car last week when the classic “Do they know it’s Christmas?” came on the radio. It is of course a very evocative song, bringing back memories of past Christmases, big jumpers and – for those of us of a certain age – even bigger hair and the horror of the original mullets. The sentiment of the song is significant and very meaningful although many of the lyrics do feel a little dated almost 40 years later and I was reflecting on this as I drove. However, the lyric which stuck with me was “there’s a world outside your window” and it is a message which rings down the ages at Christmas, perhaps most notably embraced by Charles Dickens in “A Christmas Carol”, of care and consideration for people who are struggling or in need at this time of the year.

About a week ago I was rushing into a supermarket at around 7.15pm on a cold and windy Wednesday evening. I was in a hurry. As I rushed in I noticed a man sat outside on a blanket. He was clearly homeless and looked like he was going to sleep there - at least until he was moved on. My hurriedness meant I didn’t stop and barely looked at him. Ten minutes later I had my shopping and was heading past him back to my car. As I walked by an elderly woman was talking to him. She had clearly given him some money and was asking if she could get him anything from the shop, perhaps a sandwich or a drink. I was stopped in my tracks – why hadn’t I offered the same? We all know that homelessness is a complicated situation and perhaps we also sometimes feel that ultimately there is little that we can do as individuals about it. But maybe this is wrong and there is. What I do know is that I was bowled over by this act of kindness and wished that I had done the same.

If Christmas is about being together with friends and family – and perhaps the Christmas of 2020 emphasised the importance of this more than any

other in a great many years – then it is also about looking out for the vulnerable and the struggling in our society. One could argue that this should be ongoing but Christmas brings it more sharply into focus. My message to our students is to think about “the world outside your window” this Christmas and think of something you could do – a random act of kindness – which will make a difference to someone who is struggling at this time of year. Little things can make a big difference and care, compassion and kindness are qualities which we should never underestimate. This is certainly something which I have reflected upon over the past couple of weeks.

- Mr J Marston, Headteacher



Act of kindness: Joshua Skeels, Year 8, used his pocket money to buy food and donated to Wallingford Food Bank.

Merchant Taylors' Company Livery Academy Award

On Monday, we went to the Merchant Taylors' Hall in London to compete against 2 other schools in the Livery Awards. The idea of this award is to encourage a group of students to develop an environmentally friendly business idea and present it to judges. The three judges were: Jana Mackintosh, Nick Hewer (from the Apprentice!) and Tim Vallings. The six of us that took part were: Bethany, Lorna, AJ, Robert, Saoirse and Alex.

We were very grateful to be able to go in person this year to the Merchant Taylors' Hall and present our idea. Our project is an app that helps you track your carbon emissions and gives you advice on how to reduce them, for instance giving you sustainable recipe ideas, or a breakdown of the best public transport in your area.

Although it was quite close and the other teams also had some great ideas and presentations, we won the first round and will now be taking part in the finals in February, at Mansion House in London. We're all looking forward to developing our idea over the next couple of months.

This has been a great opportunity and we would like to thank all the teachers that have helped us on the project, including Ms McGowan, Ms Mummery and Miss Isaac. By taking part in this award, we have all developed confidence in public speaking and learnt the basics of developing a business idea.

Of course, we are also extremely grateful for the invaluable support of our two mentors, Jamie Longstaffe and Victoria Townsend, who gave us lots of constructive feedback which we used to improve our presentation.

We faced plenty of challenges along the way, especially because for many of us it was our first time doing public speaking. It was also difficult to find the time for all the meetings, as many of us had other commitments at the same time.

This opportunity has been very rewarding for all of us and we are excited to continue working together as a team on our project!

- Lorna and Alex, Year 12





Sponsored Walk

It has been almost six months since the Wallingford and Brightwell school community set off on a scorching summer's day to complete a sponsored walk to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. We had planned a nine mile walk to Wittenham Clumps and back, but diversions on the day meant students completed a ten mile round trip. We had a variety of modified routes on the day for students so that everyone could take part. Even our very youngest students aged 4 and 5 clocked up the miles on the day!

We were delighted to welcome Ruth, Dave and Chris who work for TVAA for a series of assemblies at the start of December. We heard more about the amazing work that the air ambulance carries out and we were able to present the charity with a cheque for £21666.76! We are absolutely delighted with the fundraising our students carried out – this money will roughly fund a day's worth of flying and medical care for the Thames Valley.

I was also personally delighted with the comments we received about the conduct of our students – we all know how brilliant they are and it was fantastic to see this recognised by our local community.

Well done Wallingford and Brightwell!

- Ms R Miller, Deputy Headteacher



Merchant Taylors' Company Photography Competition 2021

I am thrilled to let you know that the winners and runners-up in this year's Merchant Taylors' Photography Competition were decided last week. After a lengthy and lively discussion of the excellent photographs that had been shortlisted – from 17 schools - their choices were as follows:

Junior Category:

- **Winner:** *Friction, Light and Heat* by Matthew Clark, Year 8, from Wallingford School
- 2 runners-up from Wolverhampton Grammar School



Senior Category:

- **Winner:** *Rejuvenation* by Daisy Sherwood from Wallingford School
- 1 runner-up from St Helen's School, Northwood
- 1 runner-up from Merchant Taylors' Boys' School Crosby



They will both receive £100, a healthy dose of national fame and artwork exhibited in London! It's a big deal – did I mention that there are 17 schools involved in this competition? If you feel like you are experiencing déjà-vu and have already read this in a previous life – it's because we won two of the three categories last year too!

Of course, the Art department is completely and absolutely delighted. A huge thank you to Mr Hincliffe and Mrs Williams who both put a massive amount of energy into this competition. A big thank you to everyone who entered and supported this year too!

- Mr S Bowen, Head of Art

Music Rings Through The Corridors...

The Music department have been busy this term re-starting all of our ensembles. It has been wonderful to hear so much music ringing through the corridors once again. Although they've taken a short break, Bigg Band have been rehearsing regularly in the hall on Wednesdays after school – for those who don't know, this is our main instrumental ensemble. They're sure to bring a sense of fun to all of our events next year!



Miss Norman is also starting the Year 7/8 vocal group in January – any interested students are welcome to come along on Wednesday lunchtimes in K3. You don't have to have singing lessons, just simply enjoy the act of singing with other people. Did you know that group singing is a proven method to improve your mental health? What a fabulous excuse to belt your heart out! We always sing a variety of songs to appeal to everyone so why not try it out for yourself?



Decibels have also started rehearsing again, our senior vocal ensemble (Yr11+) who meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in K3. This is a perfect opportunity for confident singers to get stuck into some fun yet challenging repertoire, particularly those students who have singing lessons and need an extra excuse to practise singing in harmony for their exams! Decibels' first performance of the year was just a couple of weeks ago in a Live Lounge concert. It was amazing to see students back on stage and doing what they love once more. The huge variety of performers from Year 8 all the way up to Year 13s, singers to saxophonists, was heart-warming to hear and every performer was a credit to themselves and the school. This small Live Lounge was in aid of the school production, which we're very much looking forward to performing in the new year – and what a brilliant way to raise some money and get in front of an audience again. Thank you to Toby and Molly in Year 13 for organising the evening.



Photo: Festive Flute Group

Along with these larger ensembles, we also run flute group on Tuesdays from 12.40-1.20pm in K2 – last term, the flautists learnt 5 new pieces! If you play the flute, do come along (it's much nicer than just playing alone at home!) Our saxophone group have also been busy rehearsing on Wednesdays from 12.40-1.20pm and wowed our Live Lounge audience with their performance.

We're looking forward to hearing all of these ensembles and various solo performances at our Spring Concert in March – look out on social media for more details on how to get tickets! If any students would like to be involved in performing in any of our ensembles, please contact Ms Hammond or Miss Norman for more information.



Photos: A few Live Lounge highlights

- The Music Department

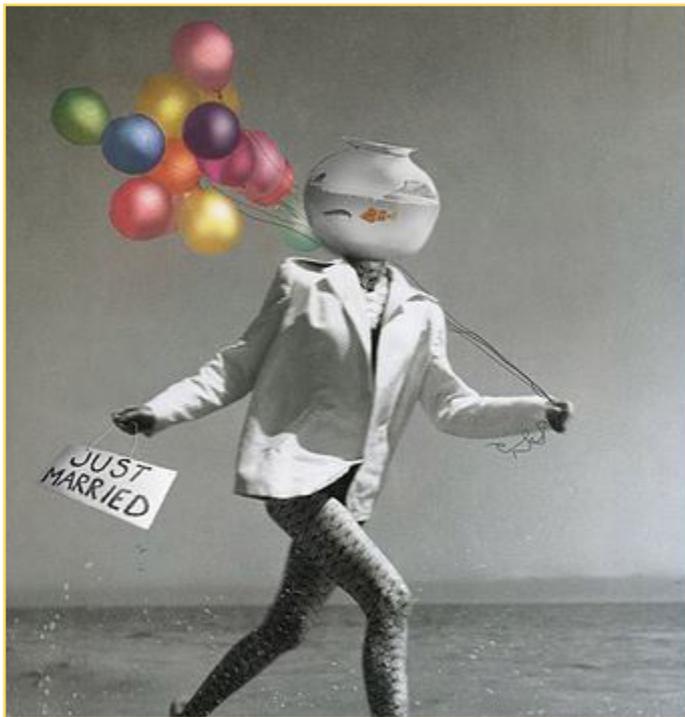
Blank Canvasses And The Roar Of Scratching Pencils...

Year 12 and Year 13 artists kindly gave up their time to paint a mural for the Donkey Sanctuary. The charity, based in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, had a big event planned and we were racing against the clock to get the painting finished. They more than completed the task with flair, aplomb and only hours to spare! There were certainly no shortage of volunteers for this event...



We were thrilled to have Life Drawing back on for Year 12 and 13 students. These busy and intense sessions prove that there is no single better way to improve your drawing skills! Students have worked in pen, pencil and charcoal so far this term and look forward to starting to paint from life next month.

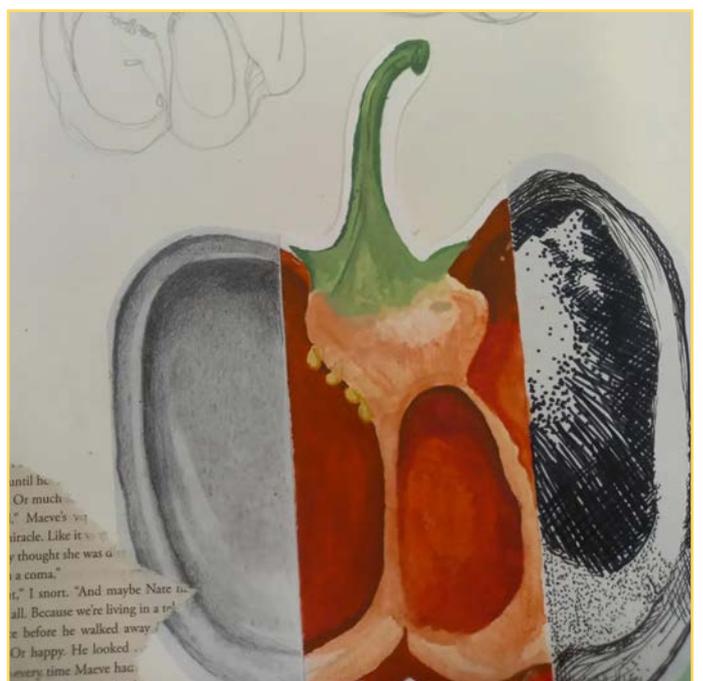
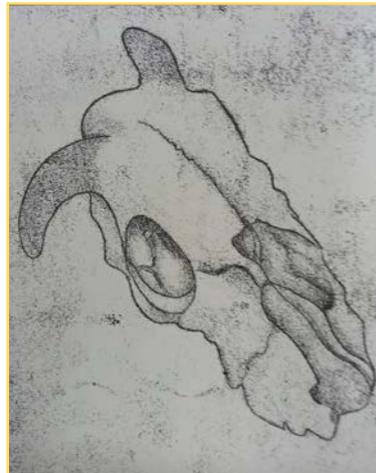




The Art department was delighted to be visited by ex-pupil Scarlett Andrews in November. She regaled 6th Form Art pupils with tales of her Art Foundation course and the creative life of an 'Illustration' student at Bristol Art School. We loved her work while she was here... we still love her new work. Possibly even more!



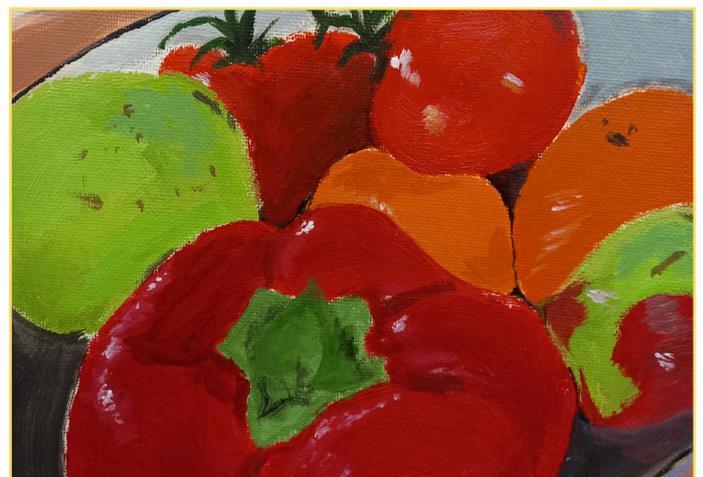
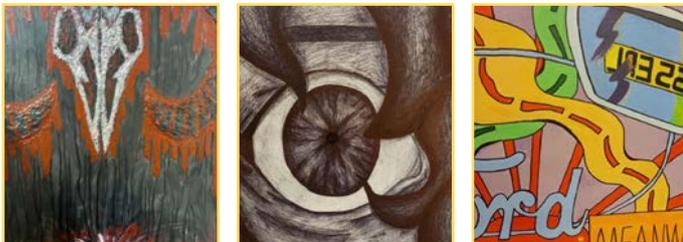
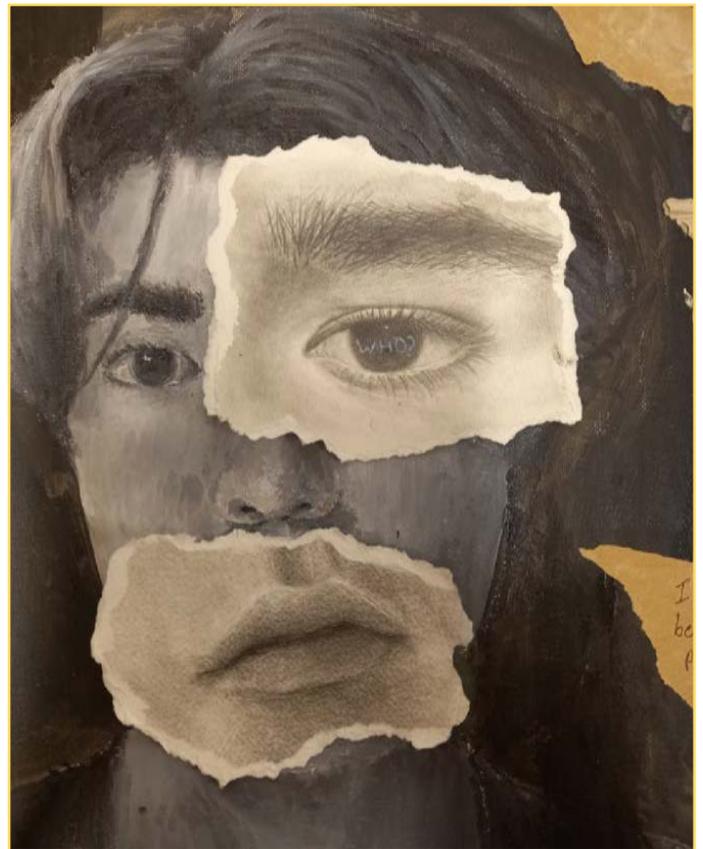
Year 10 GCSE artists have produced some astonishing work this term. Just look at this joyful, committed, detailed and ambitious sketchbook work! Peppers, garlic cloves, goat skulls, strawberries, flowers and more explored with pencil, watercolour, acrylic, pen, monoprint and coloured pencil.



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From quiet beginnings... the smell of blank canvasses and the roar of scratching pencils.. to the excitement and power of finished work 10 hours later...

Here is a tiny excerpt of some of the depth, breadth and variety of styles and techniques demonstrated by Year 11 artists during the Mock Exam in December. It is hard to believe that they are possibly just gearing up to even more impressive work in the summer!



Art Club has been a runaway success during Wednesday lunchtimes since September. Sometimes, as many as 40 talented artists arrive in B3 to turn their hand to a wide range of artistic projects. They have made a beautiful tree, crafted peace doves, recreated the Northern lights, worked on scenery painting and a host of Christmas activities to name just a few! A huge thank you to Mrs Williams and Mr Hinchliffe for running this every week.



Sixth Form Visit Winter Wonderland

Despite the winter weather's best efforts to dampen their spirits, 50 students from across the Sixth Form bravely stepped up their Christmas spirit at the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland. The Christmas market, lots of fantastic rides and more than a couple spicy sausages in a roll were enjoyed. Many thanks to Mr Harpin, Ms Norman, Miss F Jones and Miss Walker for accompanying the festivities.

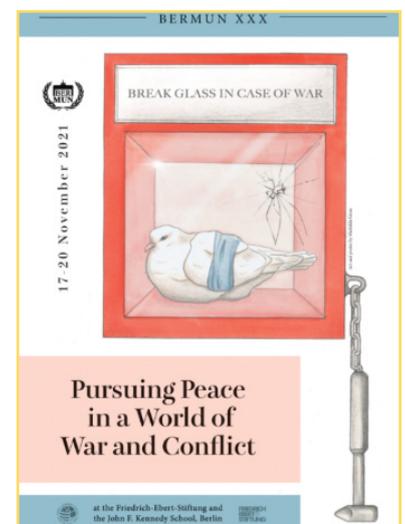


BERMUN 2021: A Virtual Model United Nations Conference



This was the first time we have been able to attend the highly recommended BERMUN conference and, albeit virtually, we were represented by 4 of the WallyMUN team: Alex, Thomas, Romy and Mathilda. Split across 2 committees (The Social and Humanitarian Council and Economic and Social Council) our 4

delegates represented Sudan, Guatemala (x2) and Montenegro in their debates. Far from letting the arguments surround them, our delegates presented opening speeches, submitted successful resolutions and argued their case for vital amendments. An excellent performance - well done.



Tumbling-tastic Competition

We are proud to support ex-student Lily May, who was selected to represent Great Britain at the Tumbling World Age Group Championships in Baku (Azerbaijan). Lily May impressed the judges and finished 12th out of 32, which forms her world ranking in the girls 15-16 year old category.



Back to Live Theatre!

The English department is really excited to be able to get back to live theatre this year. Our aim is to offer a live theatre event to every year group. Our Year 8s are very excited about their upcoming trip to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' on 27th January at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. We are incredibly lucky to have succeeded in acquiring over 150 tickets for this event! Watch this space for news about a private performance by a professional theatre company for Y11 in January, and our planned trip in March 2022 for our Year 7s; we have something slightly more local lined up for them. We have things up our theatrical sleeves for other year groups – to be confirmed as we wait for theatres to confirm their schedules for 2022. We always try for something that is linked to our curriculum or something that will really give our students both the opportunity to experience and enjoy a theatrical event combined with something to stimulate discussion and further activities in the classroom. We will make sure we share their reviews and some pictures of their experiences here and on our social media pages!



A Bumper Year For Latin...

This has proved a bumper year for Latin (beginning for some in Y10, others in Y11). We have 22 students coming for one hour after school on Thursdays for this extra-curricular subject. Students learn the basics of the language, plus much cultural background about Entertainments and The Romans in Britain, plus some actual Latin literature for the exam 18 months hence. One day I shall try to find out what induced so many to enrol this term; meanwhile CARPE DIEM everyone and enjoy SATURNALIA.

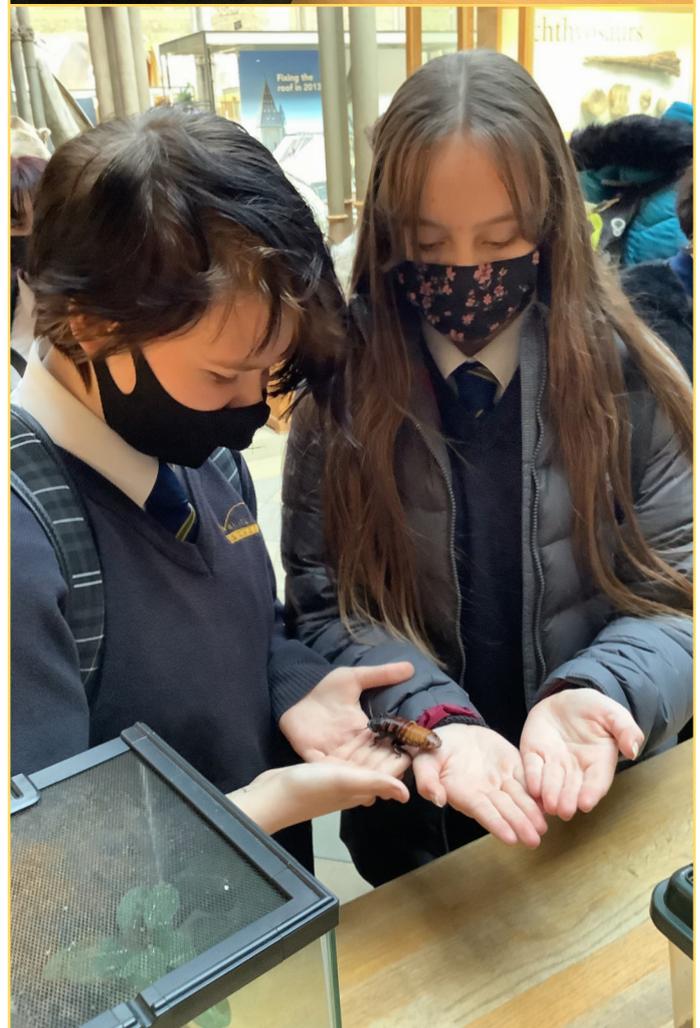
- Mr G V Dawson

Science Lectures At Oxford University Museum Of Natural History

On Thursday 9th December the Science department took 50 Year 9 students to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History for their annual Science lectures. Two students share their experience below.

We went to two different lectures about volcanoes and our solar system. The first lecture was about volcanoes that erupted mostly in the last century such as St. Vincent and Mount St. Helens. We learnt about the equipment used to monitor earthquakes and to help people predict when the volcanoes would erupt and the pattern in their eruptions based on previous ones. We then had some time to explore the museum. Everyone seemed really involved with the activities. We were able to look at bees and flies under a digital microscope to identify them, hold leaf insects and a cockroach as well as explore volcanic rocks and talk to the scientists. The second lecture was about our solar system and exploring it with infrared frequencies that show different aspects of the planets such as temperature. They also showed what materials transmit and block infrared light allowing us to gain an idea of the atmosphere of planets. All of this trip was very interesting and educational.

- Naomi Hall and Shia Moulton, Year 9



Silver Plated Baubles

A Christmas themed Chemistry lesson for our Year 12s this week - they made silver plated baubles!



SEND Secret Santa Shopping Trip

Malakai, Florence, Alicia and Alfie went on a festive shopping trip to Didcot with Mrs Collins and Mrs Wilkins last week as a part of their life skills group. They took the opportunity to find their secret Santa presents, along with a few sweet treats for themselves!

We hear they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and each other's company - a bonus being the wobbly mini-bus journey!



Christmas... Cracking... Books!

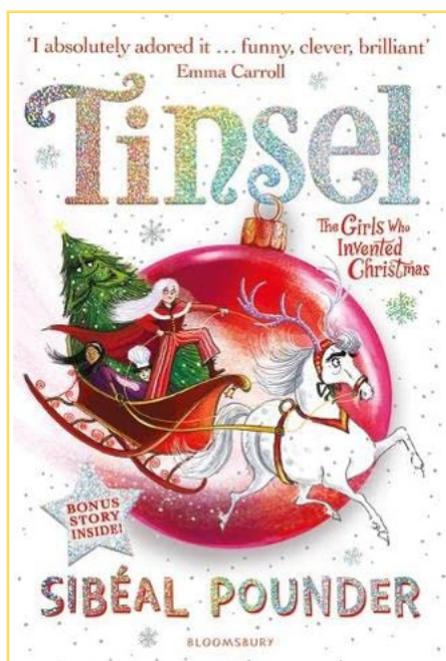
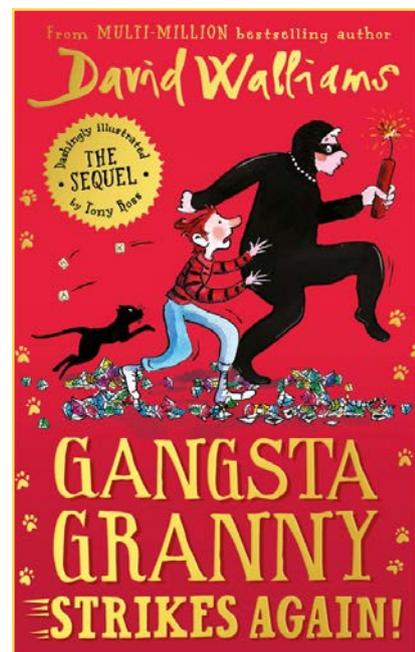
As ever Mrs Saunders, School Librarian, has created a fantastic display of wintery books to inspire you to #GetReading this Christmas Holiday.

Here's just a few of her selection:

Ben is getting used to life without his beloved granny. She was a cabbage enthusiast, a Scrabble partner... and an international jewel thief known as The Black Cat. Now, only the memory of their extraordinary adventure to steal the Crown Jewels lives on. Then something inexplicable happens. World-famous treasures are stolen in the dead of night and the clues point to none other than The Black Cat? But that's impossible...?

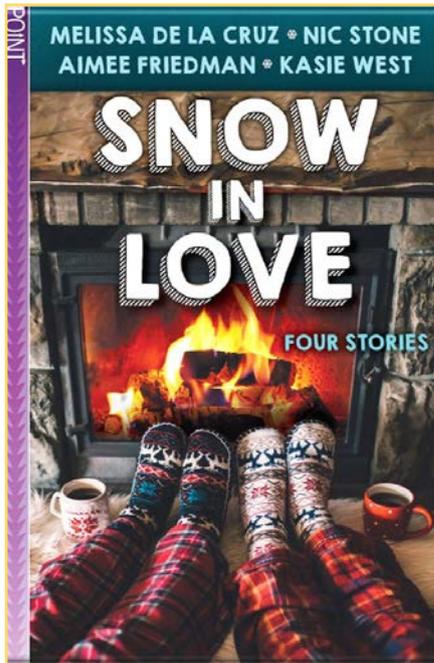
Expect the unexpected in this wonderfully entertaining and laugh-out-loud adventure, which will have readers on the edge of their seats as they join Ben on his quest to unravel the mystery of the return of The Black Cat.

This first ever sequel from David Walliams will delight new fans, as well as the millions of readers that have loved Gangsta Granny.



What if somewhere along the way we've all got the Santa story a bit wrong...? Join Blanche Claus and her best friend Rinki for a funny festive sleigh ride you'll never forget!

From Sibéal Pounder, bestselling author of the Witch Wars and Bad Mermaids series, this tale of friendship and mince-pie feasts is the perfect book to curl up with this winter. Funny, feminist and with a huge heart, it's a gloriously Christmassy adventure that will delight even the biggest Grinch.



What's better than one deliciously cozy, swoon-worthy holiday story? Four of them, from some of today's bestselling authors.

From KASIE WEST, a snowy road trip takes an unexpected detour when secrets and crushes are revealed.

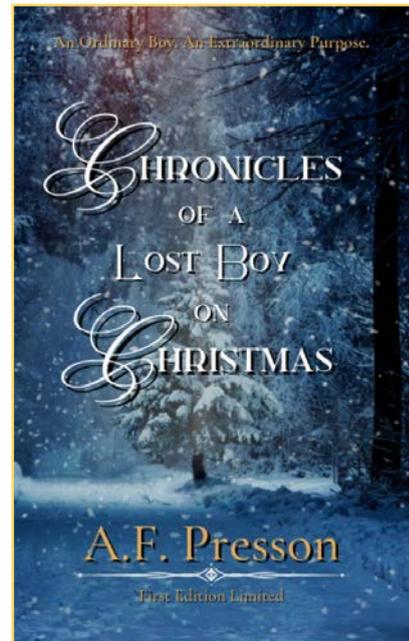
From AIMEE FRIEDMAN, a Hanukkah miracle may just happen when a Jewish girl working as a department store elf finds love.

From MELISSA DE LA CRUZ, Christmas Eve gets a plot twist when a high school couple exchange surprising presents.

From NIC STONE, a scavenger hunt amid the holiday crowds at an airport turns totally romantic. So grab a mug of hot cocoa, snuggle up, and get ready to fall in love...

An Ordinary Boy. An Extraordinary Purpose. One lonely Christmas Eve night, Nicholas sat on the rooftop of the orphanage, peering into the windows of a nearby cottage celebrating Christmas. A deep-seated need rose within him to understand the mysterious holiday, to provide for the less fortunate, like himself.

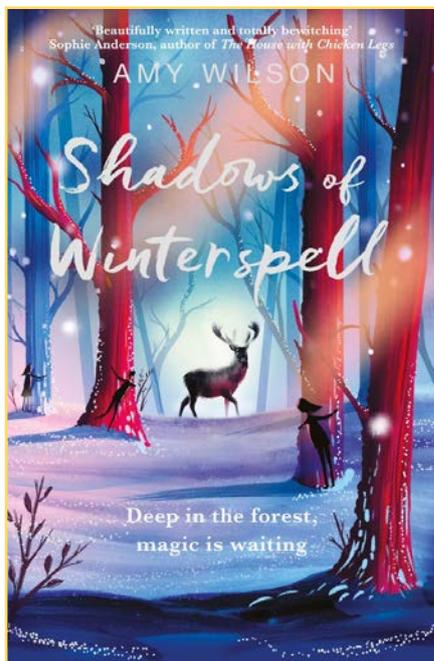
Along with his closest friends, Lula and Alius, the orphans run away from the only home they know to search for their family, so they may also experience the magic of Christmas. Nothing goes as planned on their adventure, and while the years ahead are filled with heartache, Nicholas discovers the true meaning of family and a purpose that changes the world.



Sparkling with frost and magic, *Shadows of Winterspell* will sweep you up in a world of friendship and magic, to uncover family secrets and find out who you really are.

Stella has been living behind the magic of the forest for most of her life. Lonely, she enrolls at the local school, and as she begins to make friends, she discovers that she is even more different than she thought. But as autumn turns to magical winter, Stella realizes that uncovering her own family secret is the only way to release the forest from the grip of a dark and old magic.

A wintery magical adventure from the critically-acclaimed Amy Wilson, author of *A Girl Called Owl*



Christmas Cooking Club!

Over the past 5 weeks we have been sharing the weekly Christmas Cooking Club recipe on social media, so you can all take part at home. Next week is no exception - here's an extra recipe to keep you occupied in the lead-up to your Christmas celebrations!

Mince Pie Flapjacks



1. Light oven Gas 4 or Electric 160°C.
2. Grease six holes in the cupcake tin.
3. In a large pan, melt the butter and golden syrup together.
4. Take off the heat and pour in the oats and combine together.
5. Divide the mixture into the individual cupcake spaces – ensure the tops are level - bake for 20 minutes.
6. Once cooked, leave to cool before removing from the tin.
7. Melt the milk chocolate - use an oven glove when handling the bowl and be careful of the steam!
8. Stand the flapjack up with the base facing downwards and spoon the melted chocolate over the top. Then chill until set.
9. Melt the white chocolate and spoon a small amount on the top, allowing it to dribble down slightly – chill.
10. Decorate with the holly icing.

Challenge Of The Week

Lots of pupils have risen to the Challenge of the Week since September with at least 300 house points being given out so far. Share the fun with family and friends this Christmas by having a go at the challenge below. Why not see who can solve it first? Last one does the washing up on Christmas day!

Christmas Challenge

**Nick has a box of ornaments that he uses to decorate his tree each year.
All of them are blue, except for six.
All of them are green, except for six.
All of them are red, except for six.
How many of each colored ornament does Nick have?**



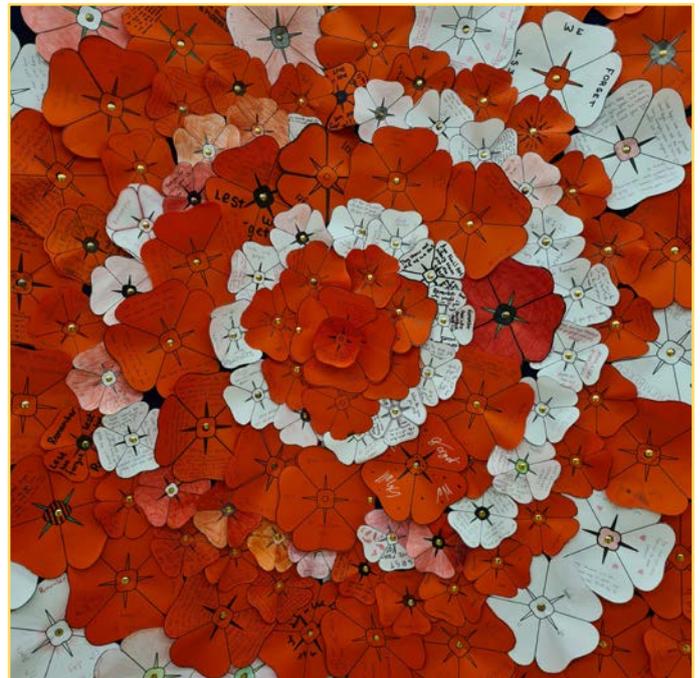
House System



The newly appointed House Leaders and I have been so excited since the last few weeks of the summer term; after two years of COVID and not being able to run many competitions, we knew the new school year offered the opportunity to reboot the House system. We have not been disappointed.

The first two terms have seen some outstanding pieces of work from individuals (a bookmark competition for our #GetReading campaign, a poetry competition, and the annual Merchant Taylors' Photography competition), as well as some really good teamwork from each House to come together for a greater cause (the poppy mural to mark Remembrance Day, and the Positive Mental Health boards).

What has been great to see is students and staff thriving on collecting and giving House points. These are given to students for a number of reasons: it could be for great work in a lesson, homework, or doing something for the community. Students also receive a higher number for going the extra mile and helping at school events in their own time.



I am sure you will see from below that the House system is now back with a bang and is as competitive as ever. Currently the scores between the 4 Houses are very tight (as displayed in the token tubes in the main hall) but, as the saying goes, "it's a marathon not a sprint". We look forward to seeing who is at the front come July.

- Mr Lyons, Head of House System

Points & Prizes

In the first two terms we have seen a big push on the number of House points being given out. This in turn has reignited the competition element of the House system that makes it special.

We have had a huge 385 students reach their Bronze award (25-50 points) and 414 students achieving Silver (50-99 points).

A special mention should be made to those 22 students that, in just two terms, have managed to reach 100 points and gained a Gold award.

Renee Chan	7TWR	MA
Charlotte Hebbes	8JPS	CH
Charlotte Southgate	8JPS	CH
Ella Ramsay	8LHR	BL
Joseph Rhodes	7THU	BI
Ursula O'Brien	8ADR	BI
William Venn	8REC	MA
Alyssa Rawson	8ADR	BI
Jasmine Gibbin	7TWR	MA
Thomas Ball	8JPS	CH
Yolanda Scrowston Ramirez	8JPS	CH
Grace Smyth	8ADR	BI
Finlay Hillier	8YFR	CH
Luke Dillon	7KPR	MA
Fergus Rorke	7JJC	BL
Cassia Turl	8REC	MA
Millie Tyndall Miners	8YFR	CH
Ava Quantrell	7EH	BI
Ella Robson	9SBO	CH
Daniel Snellgrove	8YFR	CH
Anna Goodwin	7EH	BI
Benjamin Pollard	8JPS	CH

Top Performing Students In Terms 1 & 2:

Term 1

Year 7	Renee Chan	78
Year 8	Charlotte Hebbes	81
Year 9	Katie McCarthy	65
Year 10	Alfie Cooper	50
Year 11	Aine Stanley	55

Term 2

Year 7	Renee Chan	55
Year 8	Grace Smyth	56
Year 9	Ella Robson	45
Year 10	Sophie Partis	28
Year 11	Lola Gunn	37

House Events

In the first two terms there has been a diverse selection of events, some that account for House points and others that are just important for students to come together and think about as a whole community.

Term 1

Bookmarks Competition
Language Day
World Poetry Day
Mental Health Awareness Week
Photo Competition
Quiz
Black History Month - scavenger hunt
Maths 'Challenge of the Week'

Term 2

Year 9 Christmas Baking Club
Form/Year Quiz
Christmas Doors Competition
History Advent Calendar
Poppy Appeal - message display
House Matches - Rugby and Hockey
Year 7 Cross Country
World Kindness Day
Play2Give - Sleigh2Give Toy Appeal



*Sleigh2Give Toy Appeal donations
- thank you for your generosity!*

History Advent Calendar

The results are in for this year's History Advent Calendar competition, a big well done to all students who entered!

Results as follows:



1st Place
Jex Lombos, Year 7



2nd Place
Ella Ramsey, Year 8



3rd Place
Callum Reynolds, Year 7

Christmas Doors!

Here's just a small selection from our Christmas Door competition:



It's all about the Christmas tree this year apparently...

We think Miss Jones may well have pulled this out of the bag again this year for Blackstone House - the origami stars are beautiful!

Bigg House

Wow. This term has seen some fantastic achievements from students in Bigg House! Well done to our resident artists, Chayse Anderson, Alyssa Rawson, Suzanna Lawson, and Sophie Cooper. Their bookmark designs have been printed and are put to use each week during Get Reading. They look fantastic! Congratulations to Joseph Rhodes, Jacob Bearpark, and Ursula O'Brien who won House points and book tokens in the English department poetry competition. Joseph Rhodes, Ursula O'Brien, Alyssa Rawson, Grace Smyth have all earned their Gold awards by receiving over 100 House points so far! Well done to George Plant, Fin Green, and Aine Stanley for being the top House point scorers in Years 9, 10, and 11 respectively. Congratulations to Archie Stickley who has completed his Duke of Edinburgh award, and a huge well done to all those who are working towards it. Lastly a huge thank you to my Bigg House Captains Saoirse Brady, Harry Lock, Finbar Wilson, Hector Jameson, and Bonnie Carr for all your help with quizzes and Sleigh to Give. A very merry Christmas to all of Bigg House, and I'll see you in the new year!

- Ms Ward, House Leader of Bigg



Blackstone House

It has been fantastic to get back to all the extra-curricular activities that students have missed out on over the last 2 years. We have already had some memorable achievements within Blackstone House over the past two terms. The House competition that has stuck out for me is the bookmark competition, where students were asked to design a bookmark for their House members to use in their #GetReading books during form time. I was so impressed by all the designs and found it nearly impossible to choose 3 winners. When the printed bookmarks arrived, I was astounded at how professional they looked; what a bunch of talented artists!

The House Captains and House Representatives for Blackstone have had a great start to the year, helping to promote events and to be a voice for their form. Most notably they put together a wonderful display celebrating positive mental health which, when judged, earned Blackstone second place!

Blackstone have also got off to a great start with House points. As I am writing this there are 60 students currently on the silver award. However, I am sure that by the time this newsletter goes out, there will already be more! This is a mark of the hard work that Blackstone students have been putting in this year, showing their resilience and commitment after a few very disrupted years of school. I could not be prouder and can't wait to see what more they achieve in the year to come.

- Miss Sutton, House Leader of Blackstone



Christie House

Hello Christie House,

Firstly, I wanted to say an enormous well done for all your contributions to Christie this term. You have all shown wonderful House spirit and thrown yourselves into a variety of different events.

It has been fantastic to watch all of your successes. I'm pleased to see your hard work at events and during lessons, and your contribution to the wider school community have all been rewarded by the huge number of bronze, silver, and gold House point badges!

I am incredibly proud of all of the inspiring things you have created over the last two terms and how fantastic the participation in all of the different events has been; whether it has been designing the Positive Mental Health boards, the amazing creativity of the bookmarks or the recent history advent calendars.

It was also great to hear about the random acts of kindness you all completed, like washing family members' cars, walking your neighbour's dog, making donations to foodbanks or simply smiling at passers-by!

I am very proud of every member of Christie and everything you have achieved over the last two terms. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in the new year and see what 2022 holds for our House.

- Miss Persse, House Leader of Christie



Matilda House

Hi Matilda House,

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting back to normal this year with all the extra-curricular activities, and it has been great to see so many of you getting involved and representing Matilda House! So a massive well done to all of you, whether that was for designing a bookmark, making a historical advent calendar, playing in House matches or for taking part in the weekly quizzes. I also want to say a big thank you to all my House Captains and House Representatives for helping promote these events and of course helping put together all the contributions to the 'What Mental Health means to Matilda House' board, which of course we won!

I can see from all the House points and the large number of students with their bronze, silver and gold badges how hard you have worked this term. So enjoy a well-deserved break and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

- Miss Hearn, House Leader of Matilda





Wow, we are overwhelmed by your generosity - we have gratefully received a sleigh-full of can donations for our local food bank! A big thank you, and Merry Christmas to you all!



Safeguarding Information

Please be aware that, if you have a concern relating to a child, there are various methods of communicating that concern:

- In person with any member of staff at the school
- Through the Get Help button in the top right corner of the school website

If the concern is out of school hours then there are different agencies that we would also encourage you to use:

- Police non-emergency – 101
- Police/Fire/Ambulance emergency – 999
- Childline – 0800 1111
- MASH safeguarding team – 0345 050 7666

If there are any queries separate to this then please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead Mr Keeling on keelingj@wallignfordschool.com