

# Wallingford School Newsletter

Summer Edition - July 2023



# Headteacher's Message



At the end of a long and very busy year it seems right to reflect upon what it is that makes Wallingford School so special.

What is special is that as a school we have an identity. We are the only school in the town, high-achieving, definitely comprehensive, catering for everyone. The ethos of Able and Qualified runs through everything we do. This is not something soft or wishy-washy – it has a hard, non-negotiable edge and is about the very best results and outcomes for everyone. These results come from great teaching and learning and a commitment to the professional development of our staff; they are also about first class support from our associate staff who play a key role whatever they do in the school in supporting our young people to reach their potential.

What is special beyond the classroom is the experience of school life at this school – the very essence of becoming Able. I could not even begin to list the number of activities, trips and visits which we have offered over this year but it is perhaps worth highlighting the continued development of the House system as significant – with competitions in everything from football and netball through quizzes such as Pointless and the Weakest Link to Bake-Offs and Pancake Races, the introduction of the already legendary House Remote Control Car Racing Competition and so much more. Part of moving back to a single lunchtime as a school was creating the space for the House system to thrive and it certainly has done so. The key is that there is something in the House system for everyone and across the year this has undoubtedly been the case.

What is also special about Wallingford School is our staff. Teachers and associate staff who go “the extra mile” every day; who want to be the very best that they can be so



that our students can flourish; who give up their own time in the evenings and at weekends to provide an extra-curricular offer which is second to none.

What is special about Wallingford School is our students. We have great young people who work hard and are determined to do well; they have high aspirations and are ambitious for their futures. They also want to be part of something, to participate, to give it a go, to have and be part of great experiences and to thrive on them. Not a day goes by when I am not impressed by their enthusiasm, their energy and their conduct. They are a pleasure to work with and to be around.

It's been a great year and now it is time for a well-deserved break; we will return in September refreshed and ready for another year as part of a very special school.

**- Mr J Marston, Headteacher**





# Student Leaders

We are the new Student Leaders for 2023-2024 and are so excited to have been given the opportunity to work with both students and teachers. As a group of 10 we have used the benefit of having a larger Student Leader group to allocate two Student Leaders to each year group. For those that don't know us already, we'd love to take this time to introduce ourselves (from left to right of the picture above): Fred Potts (Head Student), Bea Tharme (Head Student), Simon Manuel, Olivia Shepherd, Leah Pellegry (Deputy Head Student), Zara Rahman, Maddie Cooper, Eleni Somarakis, Thomas Hindle (Deputy Head Student), Anna Facey.



## What are we trying to achieve across the school?

As a group we have three main goals. Our first is to introduce more House competitions. We understand that not everyone is sporty or able to partake in certain House competitions and it is our plan to change that. We aim to set up House competitions in a variety of different subjects including Maths and Music but also many more. Thomas has already kickstarted this idea and we can't wait to see it come to life in the new academic year.

The Peer Supporters programme was set up last year to aid the transition from Primary School to Secondary School for both Years 7 and 8. Due to the tremendous work done by the previous Peer Supporters and their positive impact, we aim to introduce the Peer Supporters programme into all year groups as we believe all years will benefit from having another support system in place. As part of the programme there is a designated room (The Wellbeing Room, B12) where students can go to during breaks and lunchtimes if needs be. We aim to make this room known to all students and revamp it to make it a more comforting space.

We're currently in communication with Ms Hedges, who is in charge of PSHE, to help change the focus of PSHE – i.e. by making the sessions relevant to issues being faced in society while maintaining a balance of set curriculum topics. We aim to make PSHE more engaging rather than reading worksheets and filling in the gaps. Our first step to this is by making introductory videos for each topic. Ms Hedges has been extremely open to all our ideas and we are so excited to start working on this.

We're all looking forward to putting our plans into place and will continue to be open to students' and parents' suggestions. So please feel free to send us a message on our Instagram (@wallystudentleaders23) or place any suggestions in the box in reception! Have an amazing summer, and we will see you next year!

**- Student Leadership Team**



Bea Tharme & Fred Potts (Head Students)  
at Founder's Day 2023

# Kew Gardens in Pictures...





# German Exchange



When I signed up for the German Exchange, I had no idea about the amazing experiences I would have. At first, I was nervous about travelling abroad without my family and worried about getting homesick, however, this changed very quickly!

Throughout the week, we went on some incredible trips such as basking in the stunning views of the Alps on Pfänder mountain, walking along the beautiful cobbled streets of Lindau and Wangen, experiencing the overwhelming vastness of Lake Constance and viewing the landscape from a different perspective walking along the Skywalk. And of course, I could not forget shopping in the scorching heat of Munich and glimpsing the Allianz Arena for the first time.

Although the trips were a highlight of the exchange, for me the friendships I made were as well. Not only did I form an everlasting friendship with my exchange partner Lena and her lovely family but I also became friends with people from school I had never really spoken to before.

I thoroughly recommend this trip to anyone at Wallingford School as it is an unforgettable experience and the best way to improve your German!



**- Orlagh Markey, Year 10**



## An Incredible Experience...

I am delighted to share with you the incredible experience and lifelong memories of our recent German exchange trip that the school gave us an opportunity to participate in. Over the course of our week, we embarked on a journey of cultural immersion, exciting trips, and new friendships in the beautiful country of Germany, and our twin town 'Bad Wurzach'.

Brimming with anticipation and excitement, we arrived in Germany after a coach journey to the airport and a short flight from Heathrow to Munich. On that evening, we were warmly greeted by our host families where I instantly felt at home, setting the stage for an unforgettable exchange experience.

On Sunday, we spent a day with our host families. They took us to places such as mini golf, swimming, hiking, and to meet extended family. This was a great opportunity to settle in and get to know your family.

Over the week, our families introduced us to many traditional German foods such as 'Abendessen', 'Knuppelkuchen', and 'Sauerkraut'! Mouthwatering pretzels and kebabs graced my mouth many times, but the crème de la crème was Currywurst and Back Forest gateau. Yum yum!



**Continued...**

## The spectacular view from the Pfänderbahn in Bregenz, Austria!



### Monday:

During our time in Germany, we had the opportunity to attend classes at Gymnasium Salvatorkolleg, where we not only sharpened our language skills but also gained valuable insights into their educational system. Interacting with German students and teachers allowed us to forge connections where language would not be a barrier! It was interesting to see how their culture is different – especially in schools, where they are paperless, only using iPads! After the morning in school, we went on a historic walk around Bad Wurzach to look at their castle and town hall.



### Tuesday:

Today was an adventure with nature discovering the breathtaking beauty of Lake Constance and the stunning views of it from the Pfänderbahn. The Pfänderbahn is a cable car system in Bregenz, Austria which sits in the valley at 1064m above sea level which, as I'm sure you can imagine, had amazing views! After, we took a walk higher up on the Pfänder mountains where the views spanned over Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

As well as this, we went to the town of Lindau which is situated on Lake Constance. Lindau had an interesting harbour with a Bavarian Lion statue as well as the Gothic Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) with a painted façade.

### Wednesday:

A short trip to the Skywalk-allgäu. The Skywalk-allgäu is a walkway suspended in treetops for views of Lake Constance and alpine peaks. 30m in the air, spanning 540m, the pathway is a barrier-free structure imposing a surreal feeling whilst also showing off modern architecture.

Later, we travelled to the town of Wangen where we explored the long-established businesses and historic buildings. In Wangen, there was an interesting market with a long tradition of selling fresh produce and showing off traditional craftsmanship. We were given time to shop, so this was an opportunity to buy gifts for my family.



### Thursday:

A day trip to the Allianz Arena – home of FC Bayern München. We were able to explore the rich history and vibrant culture of Germany through the guided tour of the Allianz Arena, and the historic city of Munich. In Munich, we marvelled at the New Town Hall, situated in Marienplatz as well as finding an opportunity to shop and explore Munich ourselves. I was particularly interested in the Hofbräuhaus in the heart of town which is the centre of ‘political life’ in Munich, counting famous names such as Mozart and Lenin through its doors!

The Allianz-arena hosted many of Wallingford’s gleeful football fans, which was definitely a trip that won’t be forgotten any time soon! I was particularly taken away by its fully colour changing exterior which resembles a cloud – with German fans giving it the nickname ‘Schlauboot’, meaning ‘inflatable boat’.



### Friday:

Today was the day we left our partners after a quick walk around the natural area of the town and a meeting with the mayor of Bad Wurzach.

The mayor answered many of our questions about the town, giving us an opportunity to learn about local culture and practise even more German!

Beyond the educational experiences, the lasting friendships we formed with our German counterparts were the true essence of this exchange. I carry back with me a wealth of memories, new perspectives, and a deep appreciation for German culture. This exchange has challenged me, but I couldn’t have wished for a more idyllic excursion.

- Wilfrid Venners, Year 10

# Music Recital & Bunkfest!



Our first ever Summer Recital was a huge success, raising over £200 for our Grand Piano fund and, more importantly, giving some of our younger musicians an experience of performing to an audience in the hall. It was a concert for instrumentalists, and we were treated to some amazing performances: from Albert on the clarinet to a cornet performance by Anni (both year 7s) as well as numerous pianists. There was a mix of genres from Bach to Tom Odell. Many of these musicians were playing grade 1-3 pieces, and the audience were very appreciative. Students showed excellent concert etiquette and the music team were blown away by their bravery of playing on a stage! This event will be a regular appearance in the school calendar from now on, which means there will be a music concert every term!





We don't even stop during the holidays! At Bunkfest on the first weekend of September we have nearly 20 brave vocalists taking to the stage! If you would like to be an appreciative audience here is the line up - be prepared to be amazed!

### **Saturday 2nd September - Rowse Honey Stage**

- 13.00 – 13.10 – Fern
- 13.15 – 13.25 – Fern & Daisy
- 13.25 – 13.35 – Daisy
- 13.40 – 13.50 – Andrew
- 13.55 – 14.05 – Danni
- 14.10 – 14.20 – Evie
- 14.20 – 14.30 – Sky & Evie
- 14.30 – 14.40 – Sky
- 14.45 – 15.00 – Elyana

### **Sunday 3rd September - Rowse Honey Stage**

- 11.45 – 12 noon – Sonny, Ava, Harvey

### **Sunday 3rd September - Main Stage**

- 12 noon – 12.15 – Sophie, Renee, Aaron
- 12.20 – 12.35 – Maddie, Rebecca, Shrin
- 13.00 – 13.15 – Summer, Beatrice, Evelyn

**- Ms Hammond, Head of Music**



# Residential in Pictures...







# From Tests to Test Matches...

Interview between Greg Jarman, Year 9, and Mrs Meardon our Exams Officer, who is also a professional cricket scorer:

## Why did you become interested in Cricket?

I have grown up with Cricket listening to Test Match Special and attending the occasional Test match with my parents and siblings. My brother played in the local Youth Club Team and my sister and I would go along and score the matches.

## What made you want to become a Scorer?

I started scoring again when my two sons started playing over 20 years ago, I wanted to watch them play so was roped in to score some of their matches. As they progressed I would score at a higher level so I took courses to learn all aspects of scoring and I'm currently working on achieving a level 3 qualification. I now score for Oxford Downs Cricket Club's 1st team who play in the Home Counties Premier League.

## Do you find Scoring tiring?

When scoring a match using computer software or in a scorebook then it is not tiring, but takes a lot of concentration, recognising the players and recording everything correctly. For a number of years, I have been fortunate enough to become a member of a team of scorers at Lord's Cricket ground. The majority of the matches I have scored have been to operate the manual scoreboard, which is used for high profile matches. This is a very large board and takes two scorers to operate, we need to stand all day in order to watch the match and see the Umpires signals, which can be very tiring.



### **Which is your favourite cricket team?**

England Men and Women's teams are my favourites.

I have scored several matches for England Women at One Day Internationals (ODI) and T20's at Bristol Cricket ground and I have worked on the manual scoreboard at Lords for the Women's World Cup Final in 2019.

Also working at Lord's on the scoreboard I have scored a number of Men's matches including Test matches, ODI's and recently two days of the Ashes on 1st & 2nd July.

### **Do you get to meet the players?**

No not at international level. Scoring matches for Oxfordshire and local matches yes very much so.

### **Who is your favourite player?**

Ben Stokes - he has such a talent and has won so many important matches for England. He is also a great captain giving the other players the confidence to play their natural game.

### **What is your favourite part about scoring?**

Just being involved in the game. Scoring for my country is a huge honour as well as scoring for my league team who are a great bunch of lads.

I have been very lucky to be part of so many high profile games: the men's Ashes; a World Cup ODI between Pakistan and Bangladesh; scoring for Oxford University at the Varsity match; watching and scoring for the various teams my sons played for.

### **What's the best game you have ever scored for?**

England Women winning the ODI World Cup in 2019. I also scored a very exciting County age group match that my son was playing at Wormsley against Leicester, which was very close with my son batting at 11 managing to stay in for Oxfordshire to win, as his very anxious Mum was scoring.

### **What is your favourite Cricket ground?**

It has to be Lord's closely followed by Wormsley.

### **What is your funniest moment whilst scoring?**

A Test Match at Lord's. Ben Stokes was batting and was approaching 50. He missed the ball and it went for four, however the umpire gave the wrong signal and we gave the runs to Ben Stokes so he received applause for this. Sky TV realized the mistake and asked us to change the scores on all the scoreboards so when Stokes actually reached 50 he was applauded once again.

### **How do you prepare for a day of scoring?**

Always research as much as possible about the teams, ensure all your equipment is ready and working. Need to know where you are going, what facilities there are and always take lots of layers as it can be very cold.

### **Do you ever find scoring boring?**

No never, a cricket match can change very quickly and the result can come down to the last ball.

# Art Exhibition: Never Enough



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our Art Exhibition on July 4th. We are so very proud of our Art and Photography students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 - we were bursting to share their wonderful work!

From giant portraits, hearts, dogs and skulls to the Pre-Raphaelites, Prince and Cindy Sherman, we think we covered it all. Pupils expressed themselves - all over a packed Main Hall - through paint, wool, wire, modroc, pencil, acrylic, charcoal, watercolour, collage, ceramics and more. We loved it and we could go on at length, so we're going to stop right there.

P.S Why was the exhibition called 'Never Enough'? We thought that The Cure's single title perfectly summed up our talented pupils approach to creativity! Next year's title.. Pictures of You? A Night Like This? Treasure... what do you think?

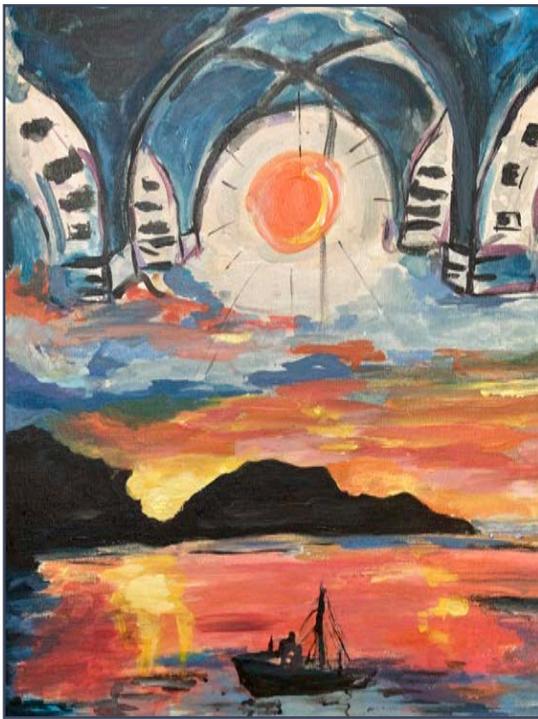
**- The Art Department**







# A Level Art: My Personal Investigation



My name is Poppy and I am currently halfway through my A-level Art Personal Investigation.

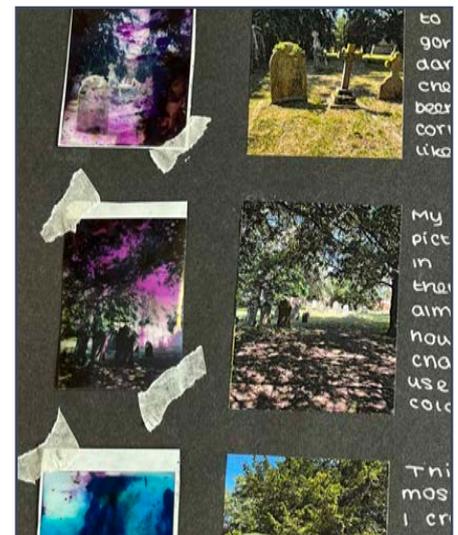
I chose to study the German artist Anselm Kiefer because I was interested in the psychology behind his work and the links to poetry and folklore that can be seen in his paintings.

I started off my investigation by creating many paintings inspired by his work. I also recreated one of his book sculptures (original made out of lead), alongside an original piece.

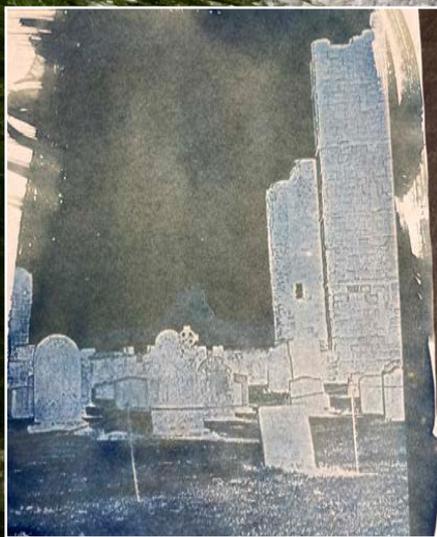
This led me to experiment with photography, which involved creating cyanotypes and making my own pin-hole camera out of a pringles tube. This required use of the dark room, which was very exciting as it was my first time!



My favourite thing I have done this year is manipulating Polaroid pictures by splitting them open while they are developing and washing/ putting chemicals inside of them - this distorts the colours of the Polaroid, and it has definitely inspired my final piece for Year 12 which will be a mix of Kiefer's textured paintings and my photography.



- Poppy Williams, Year 12



# A Hive of Activity



No matter the time of year, you can always guarantee that PE will be a hive of activity. We started the term with a host of rugby 7s tournaments, organised by Mr Dodson at the Wallingford Rugby Club. Our Year 9/10 girls narrowly missed out on first place whilst our Year 8 boys placed third on the podium after winning all but two games; what a way to start the term!

This was quickly followed by our annual trip to Tilsley Park to compete in the district athletics. After competing so fantastically on the day, 12 of our athletes placed high enough in their events to represent the county at the next level. We are immensely proud of them all!



We also entered the 'Quadkids' and 'Super 6s' athletics tournaments, in which students compete in individual athletics events to win as a team overall. We had huge success, with the Year 8 boys hopping, skipping and jumping their way straight to first place, both Year 7 teams placing second and the combined Year 10 team narrowly missing out on third place.

As always, in our summer term the weeks are peppered with cricket fixtures. This year we've had a particularly strong Year 9 cricket team, who won not only a multitude of fixtures but also the 6s tournament back in June. A big well done to the Year 7 and 10 teams who have also played fantastically this season.



A special mention to the Sixth Form boys' football team who thrashed St Birinus 6-0 in their friendly game in June. Some amazing play from the whole team and a great display of Sixth Form sport! Another special mention to our archers who competed at Wallingford Sports Park in their first inter-school competition; it was a huge success and we look forward to more tournaments next year.

Last but by no means least, the shining star of the PE calendar, Sports day. Once again, a momentous day of determination, resilience and joy, with Blackstone regaining the crown back from Christie. A huge well done to every single individual that took part, with such a range of sports including climbing, rowing and cycling, there truly is something for everyone to have a go at!

Another huge well done to everyone who has competed in sports competitions outside of school. We've had a huge influx of students and parents sending in news and photos this term, and we could not be prouder of our amazing Wallingford athletes both past and present (so please keep sending them in).



**- Miss S Allen, PE Technician**

# Sports Day in Pictures...





# Lake District Revision Trip



One of the highlights of students' 6th form experience is the Year 13 Lake District Revision Trip at the start of May. We are very fortunate as a school that we can take all of Year 13 to an activity centre on the banks of Lake Windermere for a week for students to have timetabled revision sessions in a different setting once the course content is finished.

This was a fantastic week full of productivity, enjoyment and fun. Students were hugely impressive in the way in which they went about focusing on their revision and were in superb study habits throughout the week. To help break up the revision sessions, students took part in activities including fell walks, raft building and high ropes. Students embodied the ethos that has been so indicative of them as a year group, which was get involved, give it a go and make the most of it. Well done to all students who attended.

**- Mr W Harpin, Head of Year 13**





# Barndance Starring *Beatrice, Year 12*

Year 12 student, Beatrice Marshall, starred in a Mike Bartlett original play called 'Barndance' a few weeks ago. The play was set in Brightwell cum Sotwell across three time periods, 1939, 1997 and 2023, in the very barn that inspired the play. Beatrice premiered the role of 'Grace', a young farm girl in 1939, whose story revolves around the impact of World War Two on her and her brother. Traditional folk music was interwoven into the action and Beatrice got to open the play by leading the chorus in song with a solo. The proceedings from all three performances were donated to the local charity 'Brightwell Supporting Refugees'.

## Florentina at The Cathedral of Polo

In April, Year 8 student Florentina was invited by the Argentine Polo Association to play in a tournament for ages 13-16. Florentina was one of six members from England who flew to Argentina to join 60 young people from around the world!

Each team member stayed with a host family for the duration of their visit. The polo tournament was held at Campo Argentino del Polo, popularly known as The Cathedral of Polo. It was a long four days of matches before the final, and Florentina even got to play on the second best polo pitch in the world, which she described as "amazing!"

"It was such an incredible experience and I would love to be able to do it again!" she said.



# Matt Falls for Skydiving



**Matt, Year 12, has never been one for sport at school, but has taken his physical challenge to new heights! Over to Matt:**

I guess I've always been attracted to more unusual sports - scuba diving in Crete and running a 10 mile Tough Mudder course. However, since I was 12 I always wanted to skydive.

Last weekend, after a 7 hour wait for the wind to drop and clouds to clear, I was finally able to tandem free fall from 10,000 ft (over 3km)! Not only did we free fall but my instructor carried out acrobatics on our descent. It was brilliant and the first of many jumps, I hope.

The jump school run apprenticeships in Business Management and becoming an instructor and, although this is not the career path I intend to take, it was great to know that there are options out there for thrill-seekers like me!

# Practice Makes Perfect...



...or so the saying goes. It certainly provides us with the opportunity to improve, tweak and learn from our mistakes. Our Key Stage 3 students (years 7, 8 and 9) have done an amazing job at getting that practice right in their most recent assessments.

We have designed the Key Stage 3 assessment process to be a supportive and developmental opportunity. They give us useful data about the things students can and can't yet do, but they also give students the chance to make mistakes and tweak what they are doing in a safe environment. The assessments increase in length and number as our students progress through the Key Stage, which is purposefully to allow students to improve their exam stamina.

By now you will have received the raw scores and end of year progress data at home. This tells part of a story for each of our students, but needs to be interpreted carefully.

Some of the discussions you might want to have at home are:

What went well during the assessment weeks?

What are you really proud of? Perhaps you used your extra time really well. Maybe you have a stand out subject. Or did you have all your equipment with you so all you had to focus on was your assessment?

Can you see a link between the subjects or topics that you revised and how it felt answering those questions? Did practice make perfect (or edge you closer)?

Would you make any tweaks next time?

Every student will take something different from the experience - for some the message will be about starting revision earlier, for others it might be about how to use exam concessions effectively or even the practical logistics of where to leave bags and what it feels like to sit in an exam hall.

We are really proud of the way in which every student approached these assessments - a big well done!

**- Ms R Miller, Deputy Headteacher**

# Careers



The Careers Department arranged our 2nd Annual Human Careers Library Event for our Year 8 students in June. We welcomed 30 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 students 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.

We would like to thank the following companies for participating:  
ABN Agriculture, Aldi, Blooming Botany, Cellmark, Esri, Fluor, Fugro, Gleeds Construction, JCTR, Lightfoots LLP, Magara Law, Ministry of Defence, Nuclear Waste Services, Proctor and Gamble, Thames Water, University of Oxford and Valeo Foods  
We would also like to thank the self-employed and retired volunteers who also participated.

In April the Careers Department arranged a lunch time drop-in event for students to find out information about local colleges. The colleges who attended were Abingdon and Witney, BCA, City of Oxford, Henley and SOFEA, Didcot. It was an extremely busy event and allowed students to see the broad range of options available.

Throughout the term students have also had Careers Presentations from Martin Baker Aircraft Company, Apprenticeship Skills and Knowledge and Thames Water.

We would like to thank all the colleges and companies who have given up their time to support our students.

- Mrs T Ward, Careers Adviser





Our Year 9 Latin students all took the Cambridge University Classics Project end of year graded test.

Students taking this test need to show a sound early knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar, and also a general understanding of daily life in the city of Pompeii in the first century AD.

Everyone successfully passed! One student scored 100%! The external moderator commented on the precision of their translations.

Last November none of them knew any Latin, so the progress they have made has been amazing!

**- Mrs P Forsyth, Teacher of Latin**



# And UKMT Maths Challenge!

340 students took part in UKMT maths challenges this year. These challenges are designed to make students think and use mathematical reasoning in challenging questions. Across the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenges, Wallingford School students were awarded 29 gold certificates, 67 silver certificates and 73 bronze certificates.

Each challenge has follow-on rounds for those who score highly. In the Senior Mathematical Challenge for Years 12 and 13, Josh Tinsey, Robert Higham, Callum Mackenzie, Shona Cummings, Owen Hill, Sean Wells, Alexander Lowe, Zoey Jackson and David Carvalho made it through to the Senior Kangaroo. Years 9, 10 and 11 did the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge with Matthew Hindle, Jacob Gunn, Douglas Watt, Benjamin Pocock, Abigail Spence, Samuel Harpham and Joshua Skeels qualifying for the Pink and Grey Kangaroos. In the Junior Mathematical Challenge for Years 7 and 8, Daniele Massera, Sam Moody, Thomas Pool and Harry Gill got through to the Junior Kangaroo. Callum Reynolds qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and scored highly, making it into the top 200 nationally.

Well done to all of those who took part this year and good luck to those participating next year!

- Ms K Pratt, Teacher of Maths

# What good Design & Technology means to us!

By The Design Technology Department



## Burrows Windcheetah Recumbent Trike

This beautiful, fast, comfortable recumbent trike is also a whole heap of fun to ride. Designed by eccentric British cycle design genius Mike Burrows in the 1980s, it's steered by a joystick and really does feel like a fighter plane to ride.

Because of its low frontal area it cuts through the air like a knife. And unlike a regular bike, the more relaxed you are – the faster you go.

It's a great example of what can happen when a designer rejects received wisdom and creates something that is truly revolutionary – and truly fun!

- Mr S Beardall-Richards

# Technology that changed my world and that of my family...

# G7



Three years ago, if you had asked me what either of these little wonders were, I wouldn't have had a clue. But then, just as schools returned after the first lockdown, my ten-year-old daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is an auto-immune condition where the pancreas stops producing insulin causing the level of glucose in the blood to become dangerously high. In those early days, we managed her diabetes with multiple daily injections, which involved lots of needles to test blood glucose levels and inject insulin, sometimes as many as 10 times a day.

Our Diabetes team were very keen that we take advantage of the rapid developments in diabetes management technology and in June 2021, we were offered a Continuous Glucose Monitor. A CGM is a little sensor worn on the arm, with a tiny "wire" that continuously monitors the glucose levels in the fluid under the skin. The results are relayed to an app on our phones so we can follow her glucose levels day and night, whether she is with us or not.

This was followed in January 2022 by an insulin pump – the Omnipod is stuck to an arm or leg and delivers insulin constantly via a tiny cannula. Insulin doses can be monitored and adjusted using a phone-like device.

Both these pieces of technology have completely changed our lives for the better. Ultimately we hope that the scientists and technologists will find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes, but in the meantime, we are looking forward to the next phase in our diabetes tech journey - a closed loop system where the CGM and pump "talk" to each other and automatically adjust the insulin dose.

- Mrs J Dornin

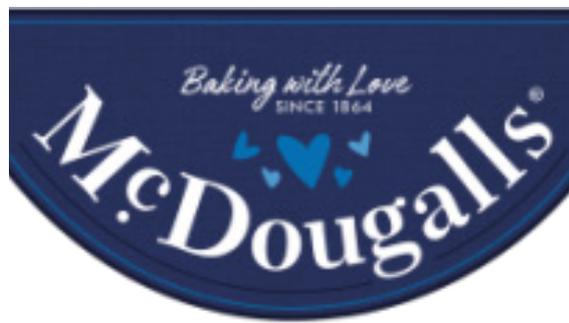
**KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF TYPE 1 DIABETES**

**TOILET**   **THIRSTY**   **TIRED**   **THINNER**

**KNOW THE 4TS**  
<https://bit.ly/3p1dsEh>  
**DIABETES UK**  
DEAL DIABETES. BEYOND DIABETES. KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.  
CYMRU

# Food Science

After I left university I went to work as a Food Scientist at the Rank Hovis McDougalls (RHM) Food Technology Research Centre in High Wycombe.



At the time, there was a worry that the world was going to run out of good protein food sources. The Technical Director lived in Marlow and the story goes that he found an unusual 'mushroom' at the bottom of his garden. RHM were working with ICI and they used a fermentation tank and experimented until they created QUORN. I worked on developing food products that used Quorn as it had a bland flavour and unusual texture.



QUORN is now used in lots of foods across the world. It is a good source of protein and is eaten in lots of dishes. It has a turnover of over £200 million per year!

- Miss J Ward

# The World of Smart Materials...

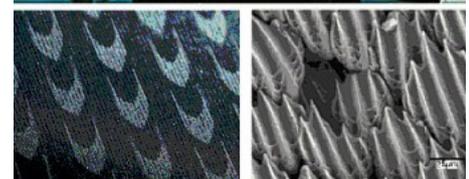


Having studied Costume for the Stage and Screen at university, I was aware of a range of different fabrics and how to manipulate them to look and behave differently, however the world of Smart Materials was unknown to me. When I became a Fashion and Textiles teacher, I was amazed to learn about a variety of Smart and Technical materials that are used to either enhance their performance or appearance.

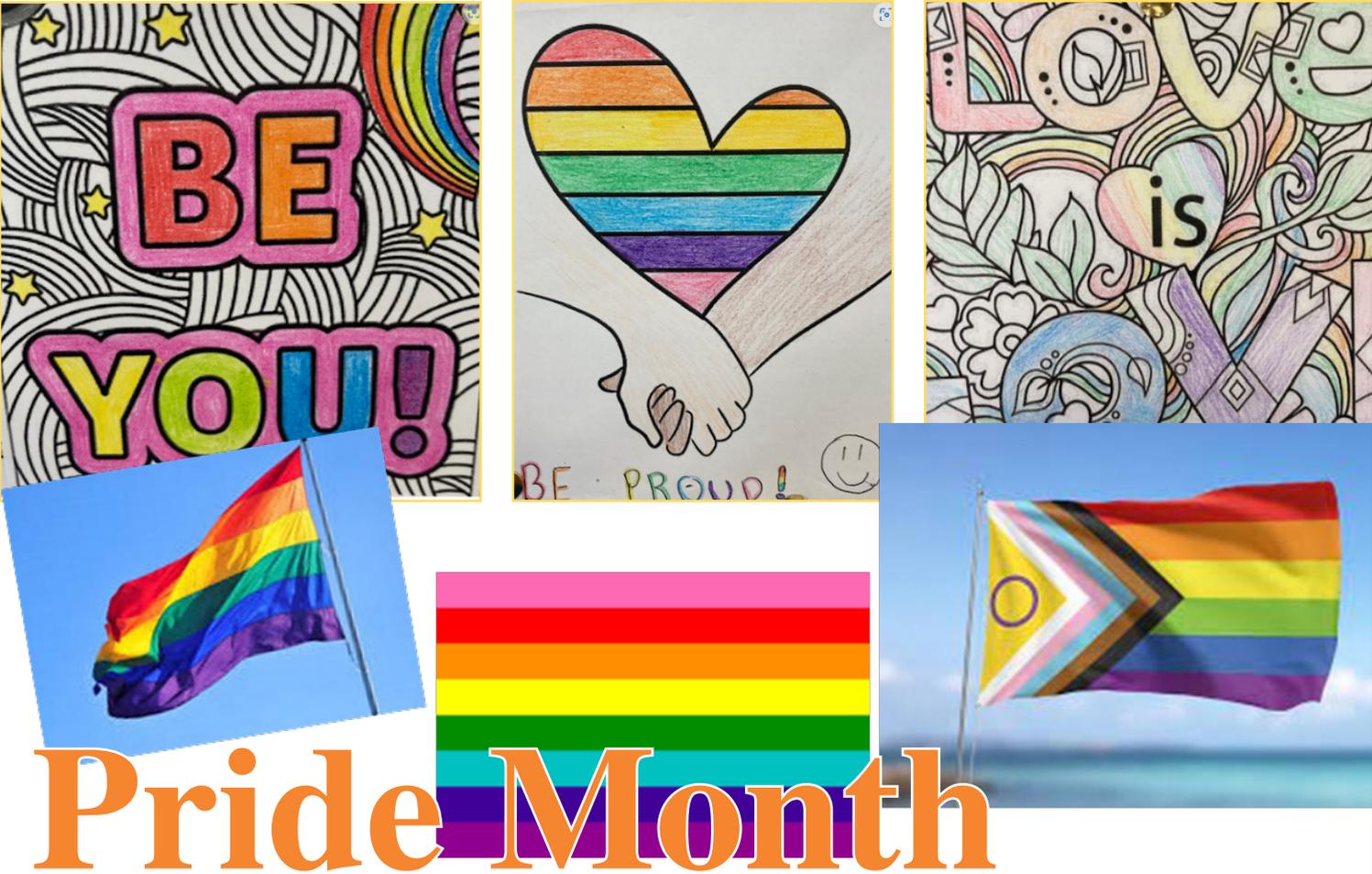
These include thermochromic pigments (change colour with heat), photochromic pigments (change colour with UV light), Kevlar (used for knife & bullet proof safety vests) to the use of electronic circuits in wearable items. My personal favourite Smart or Technical fabric is Fastskin. This technology uses biomimicry (the idea of mimicking nature in science) having taken

a closer look at sharks and how their skin makes them so hydrodynamic through water.

Scientists found that if fabric was knitted into the same pattern to mimic the tiny scales on the shark's skin, it made swimmers glide through the water and therefore improved competitive times for professional swimmers. Using the concept of looking at nature to influence design is fascinating.



- Miss D Isaac



# Pride Month

We spent a week celebrating pride month. The Student leaders created a handfull of resources including videos and activities to enable students in KS3 and KS4 to learn about and engage with Pride month.

Support and further information can be found below:

## Who should I talk to at Wallingford School?

- Peer supporters (can be found in the wellbeing room at break and lunch and wear purple lanyards)
- Student leaders (they introduced themselves in assembly but you can ask teachers if you're unsure)
- Tutors and staff members
- Friends you trust

## Who should I talk to outside school?

- ChildLine offers specialist support for children - call 0800 1111
- Stonewall getting the UK back on track for LGBTQ+ equality
- LGBT Foundation provides information, advice and talking therapies
- Speak to a GP, trustworthy friends and adult

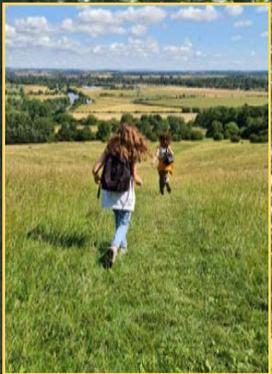
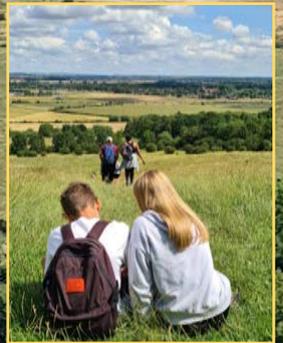


## Useful videos:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/55889037>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52872693>

# Sponsored Walk in Pictures...





# House Events

After a successful Term 3 & 4 for all four Houses, we wanted to keep the momentum going and ensure there continued to be lots of opportunities for the students to take part, compete and shine in an area of interest to them.

Term 5 started with some excellent entries of the King's Coronation Quiche and provided some early practice before the annual Bake-off competition. Unfortunately, I can't vouch for how good they tasted, but they certainly looked excellent. A special mention to Ed, Joseph and Imogen.



Next up was celebrating World Technology Day - a chance for the Technology department to showcase each of their subjects. In Food, students had the chance to taste test to see if they could identify flavours of crisps or which drink was Coke and which was Pepsi. Textiles introduced thermochromic paint stencilling, heated with a hair dryer, which was a fun experiment. And in Technology, students made dog tags and practiced engraving. Miss Persse was happy to make one for her own dog, Monty, just in case he forgets his own name.



Mr Harpin continued with his termly tradition of transforming into Anne Robinson for The Weakest Link competition. Students showed again and again what utterly useless knowledge they seem to retain!! As well as understanding tactics to kick off the threats to their house! It was a great watch!

We ended Term 5 with a new competition, the House Grand Prix: remote control cars in the four house

colours (courtesy of Mr Hinchliffe). Preliminary rounds were on the astroturf, where I have to say I taught the students a lesson in driving! However, the final was in the main hall, and on that slippery surface I was made to look silly, in front of a good 100-strong crowd!!! A great event that really drummed up interest in the final...look out for this one again next year!



Term 6 started with two cooking rooms jam-packed with Year 7-9 students, all decorating cakes they had made for the annual Bake-off competition. The outcome was a huge number of brightly coloured, massive cakes....I am glad it wasn't a taste test as there was no way I could eat that many cakes!



Year 10 followed a few weeks later and the highlight for me was the mermaid cake, Mr Marston enjoyed being collared to judge this one, and was a diplomatic as ever with his decision.



The English department launched their 100-word short story competition that not only contributes to House points, but has a £50 prize for the winner nationally.

We complete the year with a design your own rocket and see whose flies the furthest when put under pressure. This has not happened at the time of writing but I am sure it will be one event that takes off! Miss Sutton is looking forward to running 100m+ to take the measurements.



Finally, we had our annual Sports Day, which is the highlight of the House calendar as it is the one event that brings together everyone from each House. It was great to see the scores and top spot change hands a number of times throughout the day, but a huge congratulations to Blackstone and Ms Sutton for winning this year!

Just the final points and House Cup to give out.....Who will be this year's winner???



**- Mr Lyons, Head of the House System**

# Bigg House

What a fantastic couple of terms it has been for Bigg House. If we ignore the scandal of arriving in last place at Sports Day...there has been a huge amount that we can be proud of as a house.

Our turnout to the Weakest Link Competition in Term 5 was superb. We had 2 students in the final & we were very unlucky not to win – sabotage from the Year 9 Christie finalists ensured that we were content with a 3rd place finish. Our turnout to the House Bakeoff was excellent in Key Stage 3. The teamwork, creativity and skill shown in the cake designs was excellent and we had groups in Years 7 – 9 all submit an entry. Well done to all involved.

Despite Sports Day not going our way in the end, I am very proud of the commitment and ethos that all students showed on the day and in the build-up. In particular, students who put themselves out of their comfort zone to step up and take part in events to gain us valuable points. The ethos of 'we win as a team & we lose as a team' resonated throughout the day; next year, I have no doubt we will come back stronger. We have finished this term on a positive – comprehensively beating all other houses in the annual Staff House Tug of War event. Very well done Bigg House and I look forward to seeing us climb up the table next year!

**- Mr W Harpin, House Leader of Bigg**

# Blackstone House

Another year of House events has flown by! This year it feels like we had a real range of events from Grand Prix remote control racing to quiz shows and sports events. I really hope everyone has found at least one event that they were enthused by.

A personal highlight of mine was the paper airplane competition. For such a simple concept, I never would have thought it would bring out the competitive side that I saw in some students. There was such a buzz in the sports hall with loads of different people taking part. Better start getting your designs ready for next year!

Of course one of the main events is Sports Day and Blackstone has reclaimed its title this year! I saw a fantastic effort from all students, everyone was jumping in to take part when needed and, rather than not having enough people to compete, it was more that we had too many! This was so lovely to see and the morale in the pens was fantastic. Well done to anyone who helped us to our victory by taking part in an event!

I'm looking forward to seeing who will claim the overall House Cup this year with a couple of events and, of course, House points left to go. Enjoy your summer break and we go again in September!

**- Miss C Sutton – House Leader of Blackstone**



# Christie House

Wow, Christie House - another incredible year! Another year in which every single one of you has risen to the opportunities, challenges, competitions and events which have come your way. This has been done with great Christie spirit, positivity and enthusiasm. It has been jam-packed with achievements and celebrations.

This year has seen the introduction of a number of new events, such as Grand Prix remote control car racing, Pointless, the Weakest Link and rocket launching. You continue to blow me away with how many of you are willing to get involved and try new things. The general knowledge that has been demonstrated in the introduction of quiz show competitions has been outstanding!

Christie House has been fantastic, embracing every opportunity and earning an impressive number of House points!

All of your hard work during lessons, extra-curricular activities and House events, plus your contribution to the wider community, have been rewarded with an amazing number of you achieving your House Point badges. Very well done!

Then Sports Day. I am extremely proud of you all for your efforts. The races were all full, with some spectacular performances. You continue to show great determination to support the house with a huge number of you stepping in last minute to fill spaces and some of these outside of your comfort zones. We certainly showed up in true red style with some great banners and posters!

I am very proud of every member of Christie and everything you have achieved over the last year.

I wish the Year 11 and Year 13 the best of luck with your upcoming results and I wish you every success for your future adventures.

Have an amazing summer holiday, Christie, and I look forward to all the adventures next year will bring.

**- Miss J Persse, House Leader of Christie**

# Matilda House

What a year Matilda House!!! You have continued to shine and show what you can achieve, as a both individuals and as a team. You have embraced a whole range of challenges inside and outside the classroom that helped us to not only grow as a house but also as a big part of the wider school community.

When I took over as your House leader this year I set you the challenge to take part, try your hardest, and to make a difference, things I feel you have absolutely embodied this year. From the bakers and cake decorators of the Great House Bake-off to the RC Racers who battled it out in the main hall for the House Grand Prix. From the Awesome Artists that created our House Postcards and decorated our VERY yellow Christmas tree, to every one of you who has earned hundreds of well-deserved House points in the classroom. From the brainy bunch who were regular participants of Mr Harpins' game show recreations to the large number of students who took to the Astro for the wide range of House matches this year, and let's not forget those who absolutely smashed the Ninja Warrior course!!! A massive well done to you all - every one of you has so much to be proud of this year.

The big event this term was Sports Day. We showed a tremendous amount of team spirit from the track to the field. There was a truly impressive number of you giving it a go and getting some amazing results for Matilda, overall coming second place for a second year running against some very strong competition!

We should all be proud of what we have achieved in what has been a very close year in the battle for the House Cup, with every house putting in a fantastic amount of effort.

I wish you all a very restful break over the summer and look forward to working with you all on the exciting opportunities September will have to offer!

You're awesome Matilda!

**- Mr G Hinchliffe, House Leader of Matilda**



# Term 6 Top Point Scorers

Year 7	Holly Blake	127
Year 8	Callum Reynolds	122
Year 9	Amber Mackenzie	119
Year 10	Chiana Cleak & Wilfred Venners	33
Year 12	Noah Jones	22

## Top Point Scoring

### Students for 2022-2023

Year 7	Olivia Hermsen	Blackstone	521
Year 8	Callum Reynolds	Christie	462
Year 9	Malee Makoka	Christie	413
Year 10	Ella Robson	Christie	193
Year 11	Hamish Anderson	Bigg	138
Year 12	James Shreeve	Blackstone	55
Year 13	Fern Stevenson	Blackstone	45

## House Champions 2023!

1st Place	Matilda	7010
2nd Place	Christie	6985
3rd Place	Blackstone	6735
4th Place	Bigg	6570

Congratulations MATILDA!

**Have a wonderful  
summer holiday!**

# JUNIOR CHEF ACADEMY

Begin your culinary journey with a course designed for young chefs aged 14-16!

**Location:**  
City of  
Oxford  
College

The Junior Chef Academy is part of the Activate Learning Cookery School and is the starting point for young chefs in Years 9 to 11 who want to explore food and culinary arts.

You will be introduced to basic cookery methods and have an opportunity to cook foods from different cultures. You will:

- Gain confidence in understanding what to cook
- Discover how to cook it and why we cook that way
- Begin to develop a curiosity for developing your own dishes

**Duration:**  
6 Weeks

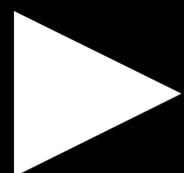
**Price:**  
£120

**Day and Time:**  
Saturday,  
9.30am –  
12.30pm

We will be delivering half-termly courses throughout the year:

- 16/09/2023 - 21/10/2023
- 04/11/2023 - 09/12/2023
- 06/01/2024 - 10/02/2024
- 24/02/2024 - 30/03/2024
- 20/04/2024 - 25/05/2024
- 01/06/2024 - 06/07/2024

**Enrol now:**





# *Able & Qualified*



Open Evening - Thursday 5th October 2023

Our results last year were outstanding and again place us amongst the very highest achieving schools in Oxfordshire - we look forward to you joining us!

Wallingford School, St George's Road, Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 8HH  
Website: [www.wallingfordschool.com](http://www.wallingfordschool.com) | Social Media: @wallingford4140



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