Ready for the challenge

The ethos of Wycliffe is to enable pupils to achieve their full academic, spiritual, physical and creative potential and to develop resilience for the challenges of life ahead.

What better way to grow your confidence and skills than to push yourself out of your comfort zone? Prep and Senior pupils aren’t daunted by doing just that.

The Year 8 pupils taking part in the annual Kirby Challenge proved they can be very generous of spirit and be respectful of others. Alix Williams volunteered for two hours a week to support elderly people with dementia.

William Adams designed outside play toys for a nursery. Year 6 pupils didn’t let fear or lack of confidence hold them back when they mastered a range of water sports during a visit to Croft Farm near Tewkesbury. Learning to make decisions and to work with others starts in Nursery.

This term Nursery pupils have been learning about transport including making decisions about when it is safe to cross a road and to follow directions.

The annual Prep Fun Run helps children develop a social conscience, while still enjoying themselves.

Decked out in fancy dress and completing the course in whatever way their imagination suggested, the pupils raised money for the Pied Piper Appeal which supports less fortunate children in Gloucestershire.

Meanwhile Wycliffe’s Young Enterprise company proved they understood teamwork when they won an award for best presentation at the area finals.

A group of Young Entrepreneurs learned how to exhibit self-belief - even when they were nervous and worried - when they competed in the Young Entrepreneurs’ county final staged at GCHQ.

The Prep School staged its first ‘Make A Difference Day’ which saw more than 180 pupils carrying out projects in the community including visiting pensioners in a care home, planting up pots for Stonehouse in Bloom and volunteering at a local primary school’s sports day.

A group of Senior pupils are giving up their breaks and lunch periods to transform a piece of waste ground into an oasis for fellow pupils. The new Gardening Club have shown their determination while clearing the area of invasive Leylandii roots.

Sophia Rai, Year 12, is giving back to the village in the north east part of Nepal where her father grew up.

So far she has raised £530 for the school in Mukli, a village in the region of Solukhumbu. “This is where my Dad grew up. He walked four hours to school every day and then succeeded in becoming a Gurkha,” said Sophia.

“My parents constantly remind me that some people have more difficult lives and that I should always be grateful for what I have and the supportive group of people around me. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Saoirse Purkess, Year 13, who chairs the Charities Committee, said that the committee gives pupils the opportunity to engage in event-planning and to make a difference in the wider world.

“We are so fortunate to never have to worry about access to food, water, shelter or the effects of natural disasters. We can, instead, dedicate our time and energy to a high-quality education. This puts us in an ideal position to work with, and support, charities,” she said.
Word from the Head

A few weeks back I headed off to a reunion at my own (former) school to commemorate 30 years since my particular year-group had left. There was inevitably lots of nostalgia, remembering things with rose-tinted spectacles etc. that we don’t need to go into here. However, what did strike me was just how far the independent education sector has come in those 30 years and a realisation that in so many ways schools like Wycliffe are so different and - to be candid - so much better now.

We are better at accommodating the individual, his or her needs and personal characteristics and interests. We adapt to the individual rather than simply expecting every single individual to adapt (conform even) to our narrow standards. More and more schools have become co-educational; we are better at encouraging the individual, his or her needs and desire to make allowances for individual learning needs and provide appropriate support. There is far greater awareness of the need to protect and promote children’s mental health as well as their physical health – it does now really matter how children answer the question “Are you happy?”. I am really not sure that it did when I was at school.

I would argue that Wycliffe has always been, in the language of Marketing theory, an ‘early adopter’ of all of those changes. Our excellence in pastoral care is long-standing and widely recognised. Art, Drama, Music, Digital Media, Design Technology, creativity are all real strengths and opportunities in those areas around us. We are a diverse, globally-focused community which has been co-ed for longer than most people can remember. Wycliffe girls do well in everything and anything and are encouraged to aspire to have brilliant professional careers in whatever field they choose.

One of the reasons GW Silby chose to name the new school he was founding back in 1882 ‘Wycliffe College’ was that he admired John Wycliffe’s ‘pioneering spirit’ and wanted to see such qualities developed in the school pupils. I would like us to continue to encourage this ‘pioneering spirit’ in our pupils while at the same time striving as an institution to continue to be ‘ahead-of-the-curve’.

Nick Gregory, Head of College

We’re off to see the animals

Year 1 had a wonderful trip to Bristol Zoo at the start of the Summer term. There was so much to see. Their favourites were the seals who were being playful, jumping in and out of the water. The baby gorilla was adorable and was being very cheeky. They had a lovely learning session after lunch where pupils learnt all about rainforests. They learnt about the different layers of a rainforest and the huge variety of animals that live there. They are all very keen to help to protect the rainforest and stop deforestation. The pupils were very lucky and got to hold hibernating cockroaches and snakes.

New House wins award

Wycliffe won the ‘Refurbishment Award’ at the recent Boarding Schools’ Association awards dinner.

The judges said the development “is a great example of renewal and future proofing – all within a very confined site right next to a busy A Road and the main entrance to the school”.

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester officially opened the building in March. During the visit, the Duchess met many of the residents of the new Wadis-Ivy Grove, including Boarders and Flexi-Boarders and toured the bedrooms.

“The new House attractively achieves its aims and manages to replace a tired boys’ boarding House, integrate a girls’ boarding House from elsewhere in the school and create additional accommodation to grow flexi boarding alongside traditional full boarding,” said the judges, who praised Wycliffe for tangible ‘improvement and innovation’. The building was designed by Battersea Architects Ltd and constructed by EG Carter & Co Ltd.

Talented eight have their Art on show

A group of Prep pupils went to Bromsgrove School to see their work in the SATIPS Art Exhibition. The exhibition included work from 49 prep schools from around the country as well as a representation from Kenya. The children who had their work exhibited included: Naomi Archibald (Year 8), Connie Palmer (Year 8), Sarah Shukir Apps (Year 8), Lily Gibbons (Year 7), Takara Harris (Year 7), Miles Menon (Year 6), Grace Palmer-Gillman (Year 4) and Emily Thomas (Year 4).

The work exhibited included paintings, drawings, etchings, sculptures and collages and was a real treat for the eye.
The first part of the day, Young Entrepreneurs, run in partnership with the GFirst Local Education team, involved pupils working in small teams on a Dragon's Den style activity to develop solutions to a business-based problem with the support of local employers. Pupils had to pitch their idea to their peer group and the judges. The winning group, Team 4, went on to represent Wycliffe at GCHQ in Cheltenham, competing against other Gloucestershire schools in the Young Entrepreneurs Final. The team pitched their ‘Easy Notes’ idea, (electronic post-it notes), to five GCHQ judges as well as a room full of GCHQ employees and teams from seven other schools. They all engaged with the process working well together as a team and whilst they were the last to present, they had great energy and interacted with the audience by asking them a question right at the start.

Feedback from the judges was good: they commented on their great teamwork, that they looked like they were enjoying themselves and that they engaged really well with the audience. It was a valuable experience for the all-girl team and helped them develop their presenting and teamwork skills. They also gained great insight into what GCHQ do and future careers that they may be interested in.

Girls have a mind for business

The pupils never cease to impress with the ideas they come up with for the annual Kirby Challenge which benefits either the community or school. And this year was no exception. Milo Hudson slept rough in the quad to raise awareness of the community. Hannah Denning and Kaylin Bradley slept overnight in the quad during one of the coldest nights of the year. Their efforts raised more than £5,000 for ShelterBox. Tommy Rowlands, Muriel Matthews and Joseph Thomas completed a three-hour swimathon in relay at five-minute intervals. Immy Teiford collected her bodyweight in rubbish while Edie Guest and Jacob Bolton organised litter picks. The entire Year 8 also did a gardening morning at King’s Stanley and Leonard Stanley Churches. Naomi Arthurton decided to spread some Christmas cheer in the community. So she contacted Scarlet House Care Home in Stroud, asking if she could organise a Christmas singalong for the pensioners. She went along with Catherine Lomer, Flora Lauchlan, Naomi Opaleye, Alex Salmon and Daisy Cole.

During the winter, Charlotte Robbins cleaned all of the neighbours’ drives in the snow and then cleaned the road. Mimi Green organised a Christmas car postal service. The Year 8 children each choose their own project for the challenge which was developed to help their transition to the Senior School. Launched in 2010, the Award is named after Roger Kirby, a retired housemaster, who worked at Wycliffe. Mr Kirby took children on wild and wonderful expeditions and made a significant contribution to the community. Mr Adrian Palmer, Prep Headmaster, said: “The ‘Kirby Challenge’ award was developed to take the Year 8 pupils out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves to do something different. This year the pupils have gone above and beyond with some truly inspiring challenges.”

No Kirby Challenge is too big for this Year group

From sleeping rough in the quad to completing a three-hour swimathon to picking up litter - Wycliffe’s Year 8 pupils are up for the challenge. The pupils never cease to impress with the ideas they come up with for the annual Kirby Challenge which benefits either the community or school. And this year was no exception. Milo Hudson slept rough in the quad to raise awareness of the community. Hannah Denning and Kaylin Bradley slept overnight in the quad during one of the coldest nights of the year. Their efforts raised more than £5,000 for ShelterBox. Tommy Rowlands, Muriel Matthews and Joseph Thomas completed a three-hour swimathon in relay at five-minute intervals. Immy Teiford collected her bodyweight in rubbish while Edie Guest and Jacob Bolton organised litter picks. The entire Year 8 also did a gardening morning at King’s Stanley and Leonard Stanley Churches. Naomi Arthurton decided to spread some Christmas cheer in the community. So she contacted Scarlet House Care Home in Stroud, asking if she could organise a Christmas singalong for the pensioners. She went along with Catherine Lomer, Flora Lauchlan, Naomi Opaleye, Alex Salmon and Daisy Cole.

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Prep pupils prove they’re Language Perfect

Wycliffe Prep pupils are celebrating after being named the top school in England in their category of the Language Perfect competition.

Fifty schools and sixth form colleges took part in the 0-50 category with Wycliffe coming first. Wycliffe Prep also placed fifth in the world in their category.

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Winnie cast wows with their acting

By Isabelle Tilsley, Year 4

Year 4 pupils performed our play Winnie the Pooh. We rehearsed for weeks and during this time we went through all the songs over and over again because practice makes perfect! The show nights were nerve-wracking but very exciting. When we got changed into our costumes, everyone started calling each other their play names like Tigger, Eeyore and Pooh. By now everyone was quite nervous and a little bit excited. When the parents were coming in, the cast had to go backstage so that the audience didn’t see or hear us. We went on the stage a few minutes later, using clear voices and good acting. Once we had finished our performances, everyone was really happy that the show went well. When the audience had finished clapping, Mr Palmer announced that he thought we were older. He couldn’t believe that we were in Year 4. I will remember Winnie the Pooh and I will never forget the play.

Teacher’s art selected for exhibition

Mr Steve Hubbard of the Senior School Art Department is thrilled to have had a print selected once again for the prestigious Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London. This is the seventh year running that he has been lucky enough to get through the selection process of this annual exhibition, which is as loved by the public as it is hated by the critics. This year 18,000 open entries were initially judged digitally, and 4,000 works were selected as delivered to Burlington House. From these, less than 1,200 were selected for the exhibition. Mr Hubbard’s print is called The Electric Fire, and is a four-block Lino print.

Running continuously for 250 years at the Academy, the Summer Exhibition is the world’s oldest open submission exhibition – meaning anyone can enter their work to be considered for inclusion. The Exhibition runs until August 20.

Author brings Tudors to life

Author Tracy Borman gave the Annual History Lecture, sponsored by the PASS Committee on ‘The Private Life of The Tudors’. Approximately 150 pupils, staff and visitors listened enthralled as Tracy talked about little known facts about all the Tudor monarchs and their lives and secrets; including the fact that Elizabeth I owned 9,000 dresses but none survived – until Tracy’s discovery of an altar cloth in a parish church that is actually part of the dress on the famous Rainbow Portrait.

Seniors’ gardening club is starting to take root

A new gardening club at the College is transforming a piece of unloved ground into a garden and vegetable plot.

It is the brainchild of teacher Kevin Patrick. Thanks to a £500 donation from the PASS, the club has been able to buy gardening tools and plants. “The idea came to me when I was working in Cornerways, where several of our pupils take their exams. I was looking out of the back window and thought it was a waste that the area was overgrown and not used,” he said. So Mr Patrick, along with 12 pupils, started the tough work of clearing the area and digging it over. Now they have started to plant vegetables, flowers and other plants.

“It’s evolving but we want to grow vegetables on part of the site so that pupils can understand where their food comes from. Come September we hope to share our harvest with the cookery club and then enjoy the results of our hard work,” said Mr Patrick.

Several pupils working on their Duke of Edinburgh Award programme have been volunteering at the club. One member of the club, Josh Barker, Year 9, said: “I really enjoy the gardening club and it’s a nice way to spend your break.”

Mr Patrick hopes to include a quiet space for staff and pupils. “Just to go and dig and work in the garden has helped pupils de-stress during exams and enabled them to relax a bit. That in itself makes the project worthwhile.”

Well done to those thus far recognised as the ‘best workers’: Alan Cui (Year 12), Albert Fan (Year 9), Maddie Taylor (Year 9), Josh Barker (Year 9), Oliver Riley (Year 9) and Madeleine Stokes (Year 9).

Enjoying the great outdoors

Lower Nursery children have been learning all about transport. They went for a walk and learned about safety, decision-making (deciding which way to go) and directions. They returned to class and then made a map display. Upper Nursery took advantage of the Spring weather to practice letter formation on the chalkboard outdoors. They also enjoyed finding animals in Wycliffe’s own jungle.
Life is sweet when you're in the garden

The Reception class topic for the term was Down in the Garden. To tie in with this, the pupils went to Highbaits Garden World.

In preparation for the visit the children wrote a list of all the items they thought they might find in a garden centre. The pupils were very lucky to be driven in the minibus by Mr Palmer.

They were first given a talk and a tour by Jon who works there. The children enjoyed looking at the peacocks around the pond. They then took out their list and went on a hunt looking for all the items they had written down.

The children went to see the statues and the plants outside and then the pets. They finished with the fish in their tanks, they even saw Nemo! When they came back they wrote about the trip and made some lovely drawings.

Group wins Enterprise award

By Nicky Jennings
(Marketing Director)

The Young Enterprise team for this year was a small group consisting of eight members, who, after much deliberation, proposed the idea of a horseshoe shaped body pillow that aided your sleep, reducing the need for more than one pillow. From this, we created the company name “Snoove” – a combination of the words “snooze” and “hoove” which we thought captured the spirit of our product appropriately.

The next challenge was to sell the product to businessmen and women at a YE fair, and be pitched against other teams from the local area. We came out of this first event with an award in the ‘Ethical and Environmentally-friendly’ category, and more of an idea on how we could improve our brand for the looming area final.

In this final, at Renishaw in Wotton-under-Edge, we were required not only to talk to the judges on our stand, but also for myself, Muni and Victoria to be grilled in an interview-style setting and give a short presentation in front of all those present at the event.

The presentation went outstandingly well and we finished the day with an award for the Best Presentation. We are immensely proud of our achievements.

Sense of achievement is like nothing else

by Charlie Jones, Year 10

Ten Tors training period lasted for approximately six months and consisted of around eight sessions. These consisted of classroom based exercises such as how to take a bearing and how to map read.

We then put these skills into practice, going on a few day walks with our rucksacks in the local area and Welsh hills. Next we went on a series of overnight exercises where we learnt valuable skills such as how to get up at 4am and put up a tent in the rain. Our training walks were around 20 miles over two days. Though that was shorter than the event, they were very close to the real thing and allowed us to bond as a team and cope with the harsh terrain of Dartmoor.

When we arrived at the battle camp at Okehampton we were straight to our tents to plan our route and attended a safety briefing giving us information ranging from the weather to how to use our tracker.

At 2am on Saturday the event started at the firing of two cannons and a parachute display, our first couple of hours were very fast, reaching our first checkpoint an hour ahead of schedule.

This trend continued over the morning, and by lunch we had reached our 5th checkpoint with three hours to spare. The terrain in the afternoon was much harder to walk over, coupled with hard areas to navigate, we walked slower, though managed to reach our proposed overnight stop (hour 7th checkpoint) by around 3:30 pm.

Although on reaching the checkpoint, and after much discussion, we decided not to push on. We quickly set up camp and managed to get to sleep relatively early.

We woke for an early start of 4 o’clock, ready to finish the remainder of the challenge. As the morning went on, we slowly became more tired and sore from the previous day.

Nevertheless we continued and were able to cross the finish line at 11:43 am (a very respectable time) and were presented with medals, cake and a parachute display, our first ever.”

Crossing the finish line is amazing

By Cullan Lloyd, Year 12

Ten Tors is an annual weekend hike on Dartmoor. Organised by the British Army, it brings together teams of six young people each, with 4,400 young participants hiking to checkpoints on ten specified Tors.

We had completed the event in Year 10. It was extremely challenging and difficult, but the feeling of crossing the line was amazing. The five of us who had completed the 35-mile challenge - Cullan Lloyd, Jacob Palmer, Charlie Leach, Maisie Spears and Lauren Turbott, and our new member, Sophia Rai - decided that we would tackle the 45-mile challenge.

On May 11, we received a brief on the rules of Ten Tors, the weather report, and how to use the GPS tracker which would plot our route over the two days. We woke at 4:30pm and set off at 7am.

We finished the day at 10:30pm, getting our heads down at midnight to wake up at 4am. After being unable to make it to our 7th tor on the first day, we were now only a couple of miles out. We set off in good spirits but we were feeling much more tired and emotional.

After making good time, we came to a leg which involved a 5,000m climb. After pushing through this, possibly the hardest part of our journey, we had nearly done it! We then met the path that led back to Okehampton, crossing the top of the hill where we could see the masses of people cheering the teams in.

Getting back to the camp we assessed our injuries - myself having minor trench foot and Charlie a torn muscle. But these were nothing compared to our sense of achievement.

In this final, at Renishaw in Wotton-under-Edge, we were required not only to talk to the judges on our stand, but also for myself, Muni and Victoria to be grilled in an interview-style setting and give a short presentation in front of all those present at the event.

The presentation went outstandingly well and we finished the day with an award for the Best Presentation. We are immensely proud of our achievements.
Playing with the professionals

The annual Flutes and Strings trip took place on a hot, sunny day. All Sixth Formers enjoyed the opportunity to watch a variety of performances from both the Prep and Senior schools. The day started with a workshop to introduce the Alexander Technique, run by expert teacher Jo Gorazos. The Alexander Technique allows musicians to consider problems relating to posture, and it helps us understand how to be more 'in tune' with ourselves and perform better.

The rest of the morning was dedicated to flute and violin masterclasses, where pupils had the opportunity to receive a mini lesson from the visiting professionals. The flute workshop was led by Christine Hankin, Professor of Flute at the London College of Music and Brunel University. The violin masterclass was run by Hazel Davis, who has played with the CBSO and the English Symphony Orchestra.

In the afternoon, the pupils came together to form a Flute Group and a String Group, working on a varied repertoire in workshops. The day finished with a lovely concert.

Huge thanks go to the inspirational Jo Gorazos, Christine Hankin and Hazel Davis, from whom our musicians learned so much. Thank you also to Mrs Blewett and Ms Orsman for all of their help and support.

Learning by watching

The A Level Music pupils enjoyed a trip to the opera to watch the English Touring Opera’s energetic and entertaining production of ‘The Marriage of Figaro’ in the Cheltenham Everyman Theatre. This is one of the A Level Music set works, so it was invaluable for pupils to be able to see such a superb production of this opera live. They also enjoyed another A Level Music theatre trip to see Miss Saigon at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Ballet class

The Sixth Formers were afforded a bird’s eye view of the monument in honour of Martin Luther King, the group reached the iconic Lincoln Memorial where they were treated to a rendition of King’s ‘I have a dream speech’ by TJ.

Outside the White House, the Sixth Formers were treated to a mesmerising ‘notorious RBG’ in the flesh but unfortunately they just missed out. Likewise their visit to Congress was frustrated by large spring break crowds but all the pupils took advantage of the opportunities offered by the Smithsonian. Highlights included the newly-opened African American Museum, the Native American and the National Portrait Gallery where portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama had just been unveiled.

On their final day, the pupils visited the 9/11 memorial outside the Pentagon before doing some last minute shopping and taking a final glance of the cherry blossom that envelopes Washington around that time of the year.
We're all off on a pilgrimage

Year 2 pupils learned all about the Middle Ages during their visit to Gloucester Cathedral. Here is what some of the children wrote about their day:

Lilly Williams:
"First we learned about King Edward II because he was killed and buried in the cathedral and we dressed up as pilgrims from the Middle Ages. I was Mary, a friend of Dame Fitzherbert. We took gifts to the tomb of King Edward."

Florina Harris:
"We dressed up as pilgrims from the Middle Ages. I was Lady Isabelle. I was a rich lady and Frances was my servant. We took gifts to King Edward's tomb.

Jake Young:
"I was Sir Robert Cranston. I was a knight and we took gifts to King Edward’s tomb. My gift was money."

Max:
"King Edward was murdered. They put him in the Gloucester Cathedral under a statue (statue) on top of his dead (dead) body."

Pupils have terrific attitude on Bronze expeditions

By Cadet Brendon Ind, Year 10

Last term, we, the Year 10s of the CCF - spent our Wednesday evenings taking to the walls of the Warehouse Climbing Centre in Gloucester, learning a great deal throughout our numerous sessions, as well as having a good deal of fun. We had seven sessions of climbing, starting from basic walls, where we learned the simple safety knots and procedures, such as securing our harnesses and creating the double figure 8 knot. We also learned how to effectively belay each other up and down the walls.

Throughout our sessions we grew more and more confident, starting on smaller, easier walls. However, progress was fast, and we soon began attempting harder walls. Some of us were complete newbies to climbing, but some had more experience – either way, Gloucester had the right walls for everyone.

We all really enjoyed the sessions, they were a great chance to try something new, which could potentially be taken forward as a hobby to those who enjoyed it. We all achieved NICAS Level 1 in climbing (NICAS being National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme), which is a basis for more levels, should we want to continue. Through the NICAS Level 1, we did over 10 climbs, on varying levels of difficulty.

The sessions were a great introduction into a fun, but technical, activity which everyone enjoyed. It has to be noted that a highlight of the Wednesday evenings were the Subway dinners afterwards.

We all would like to especially thank the staff at the CCF for making the trip possible.

Cadets prove they are upwardly mobile

By Cadet Transal Ind, Year 9

Congratulations are due to 30 Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh participants who have completed both their practice and qualifying Bronze ventures this term. The first took place locally in early May, in glorious but very hot conditions with students particularly enjoying camping at Cranham Scout Centre.

The assessed venture took place a month later in The Gower Peninsula, with a preliminary night’s stay at Borfa Youth Hostel in the coastal village of Port Eynon. On arrival, despite the weather being cloudy, participants immediately changed and plunged into the icy waters of the Irish sea, gaining an appetite for a hearty evening meal.

After breakfast, the teams set off on their prepared routes from various locations, including Arthur’s Stone viewpoint above Reynoldston, and converging at either Hillesh or Kennonstone campsites for Saturday night. The cloud burned away, revealing breathtaking views far out to sea from the hillsides and cliffs. By the time groups were dropping down into camp, the beaches at Rhossili were strewed with weekend holidaymakers building in the afternoon sunshine, or surfing.

On the final day some groups’ routes took them around the cliffs at Worm’s Head while others circumnavigated Whiteford Sands, a two mile long spit close to muckland where wild horses roam. It’s a spectacular but exposed area and by the time the teams reached the assessor at Landimore they were drawing on their reserves of energy.

Well done to all involved on a great expedition and terrific attitude!
Pupils’ work part of special war memorial

By Gracie Starkey, Year 11

In October 2016 a group of Year 8 and 9 pupils travelled to Ypres, Belgium to find out more about the First World War. During our trip we visited an organisation run by a group of volunteers who were working on a project to create clay figures to mark the First World War.

We were all shown an example of the figure we were going to make. Then we were given a large lump of clay which we then had to sculpt into a ball. After that, we placed our balls of clay into a press. The presses were extremely heavy and I remember three of us trying to push down just one press! However, it was worth the effort because the end result was lovely. The lumps of clay had turned into figures of crouching men.

Our figures have now been glazed and are part of a memorial in Ypres. The memorial contains 600,000 figures including ours. Each man symbolised the fear that everyone went through and the brave soldiers who died in order to save our county.

The majority of the trip was highly emotive and sobering but I feel that this moment was special because we had the opportunity to contribute to the incredible memorial.

How the College has made a difference to so many

By Sanine Parkees, Year 13

The Charities Committee has been working all year to support three charities, Rory’s Well, Water Aid and Toilet Twinning.

Between them, they provide disadvantaged communities with clean drinking water, functional toilets and sustainable farming with a focus placed on crops that best supplement the communities’ diets.

In short, they provide the necessary resources for a community to rise out of poverty, devote more time to education and achieve a better quality of life.

Having a Charities Committee gives pupils the opportunity to engage in event-planning and to make a difference in the wider world.

We are so fortunate to never have to worry about access to food, water, shelter or the effects of natural disasters. We can, instead, dedicate our time and energy to a high-quality education. This puts us in an ideal position to work with, and support, charities.

Through collections at the Christmas carol service, in Main House and at a wet-sponge-showing event we are proud to announce that we raised £165.

Thank you very much to all of the pupils who were involved in raising money for these worthy charities.

Raising money can be a lot of fun

The Prep School put their collective best foot forward with the fun run in aid of their chosen charity of the year - the Pied Piper Appeal.

Pupils dressed up and tried all sorts of ways to complete the run - including a five-legged race by Year 8 pupils Kaylin Bradley, Connie Palmer, Edie Guest and Rosanna Pack.

They said: “We attempted the Wycliffe Fun Run as a five-legged race. In the first 100 metres, we were going strong but after that the rope started to pull so we had to split up. We really enjoyed dressing up, especially wearing the fluorescent face paints, wacky socks and brightly coloured clothes.”

Everyone donated £2 to the charity which makes a difference to the lives of sick and disabled children in Gloucestershire.

Performing at ceremony was very special

VOX - WYCLIFFE’S SENIOR CHOIR - TRAVELLED TO GLOUCESTER CORONER’S COURT TO PERFORM AT A CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY.

By Rebecca Taphouse, Year 12

This is an event to celebrate people who are becoming British citizens. We worked really hard to put together a repertoire of pieces that included typically British songs and uplifting music to help make the event really special for those involved.

Before the service we sang some songs as people’s friends and families walked in and as the citizens processed in we sang part of a Scottish folk song called ‘Like a Singing Bird’.

During the ceremony the soon-to-be citizens had to swear an oath of allegiance and a pledge, and then presented with a certificate and officially became British citizens. One of the highlights of the event was singing the national anthem at the end of the service.

After the service many of the new British citizens enjoyed taking pictures with a portrait of the Queen to celebrate, while we got our very own picture with Her Majesty after them. Ruth Fitzjohn thanked us for performing and spoke about how she hoped that this made us think about how lucky we are to be British.

The event was inspirational and was something that was very special to be a part of.

Sophia is half way to her target

Sophia Rae is more than halfway to her target to raise £2,000 for the remote Nepalese school which her father attended.

Mukli is a rural area in the north east part of Nepal. Only in recent years have few roads been built and some primitive technology such as phones been introduced.

Sophia is aiming to raise money for educational items such as laptops, projectors, books, pens and pencils. The laptops will have educational software for the children to use and help teachers to teach.

“My family has generations of Gurkhas in the British and Indian Army. This is where my Dad grew up,” she said.

“Many children cannot afford to go to school and others cannot afford the equipment. Simple things, such as paper and pencil, that we sometimes take for granted. “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

To donate go to: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/muklischool
Congratulations to Prince Harry and Meghan

In honour of the Royal Wedding Prep pupils came to school in red or white or blue, or all three colours, instead of their uniform - home clothes or dressing up with a royal theme!

Children and adults donated generously in gold or silver coloured coins and all monies raised went to the Prep’s charity of the year, the Pied Piper Appeal at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

A short slide show in assembly explained what would be happening in Windsor and who might be involved, including a mention of Prince Harry and the person he calls Granny.

A special lunch was arranged with the Chartrwells catering team and they went to a great deal of trouble to keep a theme of traditional British and American associations, including red, white and blue. The dining room was transformed into a street party banquet hall, and flags and photographs adorned the tables, servers and walls.

The Royal Wedding celebrations linked to the Prep’s British Values and Culture subject area and one Year 6 History group made crowns to wear. Their research covered the original street parties (1919 Peace Parties) and they gained an understanding of why the tradition has continued.

Awards galore at Physics Olympiad

Pupils in Years 10, 12 and 13 took part in national British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) competitions, which are designed to encourage the study of Physics and related disciplines through testing pupils’ understanding and problem solving skills.

In taking part pupils are encouraged to see the real-world potential of Physics while also developing skills that will help them at higher levels of study in Science and Maths.

All Year 12 and 13 pupils took the BPhO challenge papers. A group of Year 12 pupils showed determination in spending many pre-press sessions working through sample questions with Mr Waller. There were some strong performances within the highlight being Megan Davidson achieving a Gold Award on the AS Challenge. This is an outstanding achievement and places Megan amongst the top 20 students in the UK.

Charlie Leach achieved a Silver Award in the AS Challenge and a Bronze Award on the British Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad (BAAO) paper. The latter is aimed at Year 13 pupils and so this makes Charlie’s achievement particularly impressive given the independent work he has undertaken to reach this standard in Year 12.

All Year 10 separate Science pupils deserve congratulations for taking the BPhO Year 10 Physics challenge, this being the first year in its history. Particularly meritorious is Ben Simmonds, Toby Collin-grace, Charlie Jones, Jed Hallul, Maidly Palmer and James Polk who achieved Silver Awards. The highest score in the year group was from Hannah Shahar-Apps who performed outstandingly to achieve a Gold Award, another fantastic achievement.

Creative skills shine through at the writing awards

Author Rachel Joyce presented prizes to Wycliffe’s creative pupils at the Creative Writing Awards.

The entries were judged by Sarah Edgell. For the first time the awards featured illustrations to each story produced by pupils.

Head of English, Matt Kingscote said he was immensely proud of his pupils.

Whilst at Wycliffe, Rachel Joyce signed copies of her books ‘Perfect’ and ‘The Love Song of Miss Oxenreider’ which can be found and enjoyed by pupils in the school library.

It was a lovely moment to celebrate the creative successes of the pupils, many of whom had worked for hours re-drafting or illustrating their works to perfection.

Hearing established authors like Rachel and Sarah discuss their own journey to writing short stories really added a sense of purpose and authority to proceedings.

It’s been a busy year for the English team; not only have they enjoyed the usual academic glow of exams and assessment, but they have rallied with a significant programme of enrichment for the pupils.

They have enjoyed a visit from 2017 Carnegie Medal nominated author Kathryn Evans who hosted a workshop based around creating ideas, plot and structure for Wycliffe’s creative writers and three groups of Year 9 pupils were selected to deliver some wonderfully delivered dialogues for the ESU “Performing Shakespeare” South West Final in Bristol.

Year 13 pupils extended their learning on ‘The Great Gatsby in Birmingham, Year 11 went to see a new performance of Macbeth at the Tobacco Factory theatre in Bristol while Years 12 and 13 saw world renowned Shakespeare expert Sir Jonathan Bate lecture on Shakespeare and the Classics at Cheltenham College.

Year 12 went to Bristol Old Vic to see A Streetcar Named Desire being performed in a contemporary spirit.

Pupils launch new magazine

Hotwire magazine has been the culmination of several months’ work by the Wycliffe Journalists Club.

After time spent carefully planning their first edition, the team set about breaking the story of the school’s planned new timetable changes as well as planning an interview with one of the school’s rising music stars.

Hotwire has been a project written by the pupils for Wycliffe pupils, and as such there has been far greater emphasis on the team to produce their work independently with only skeleton support from staff. It was their own decisions that were made to steer Hotwire away from the vestiges of traditional print newspapers and instead towards a more fashion magazine led format, with stylish artwork, careful use of colour and type and a clear design for each article.

Upon its successful release the Journalists Club doubled in size allowing the second edition, to be released in the last week of term. Future issues and stories are already being planned and angles considered for new material.

Westminster comes to Wycliffe for Q&A session

Wycliffe’s South Form Politics pupils were given a unique masterclass of Westminster politics when they were paid a visit by Dr David Drew – MP for Stroud.

During an extremely entertaining and revealing Q&A session, David gave honest responses to questions posed on a range of topics from education to votes at 16. Inevitably, much of the session was dominated by Brexit and David’s views on both that and the referendum which has taken us to the brink of withdrawal from the EU.

Fab Four wow festival judges

Four Prep pupils returned from the Cheltenham Festival with a clutch of prizes.

Abigail Opalayi won a first in Solo 10 years under. Charlie Leach won a first in Solo 9 years category and Nelly White won first in Solo 7 years and under. Bo Buckingham came third in Solo 10 years.

Abigail and Lewis also won a first for their Duo playing and Abigail, Lewis and Bo won a first for their Trio performance.
New Year’s Honour

Robert W. James (J SH 1946 – 1953) was awarded a British Empire Medal by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year’s Honours for over 50 years of service to the community in his home town of Hungerford, Berkshire. Pictured here (right), at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party for honours recipients hosted by the Queen, the Duke of York and the Earl & Countess of Wessex, with his wife Sally, son Andrew (J SH 1977 – 1987) and Frances Coss. Medal presentation ceremony: pictured (below L-R) with son Andrew, wife Sally, Robert James, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, James Puxley who presented the medal on behalf of the Queen, the High Sheriff of Berkshire; Sarah Scope who read the citation and son Tristly (J SH 1974 – 1983). You will be pleased to see that he wore his OW tie for both events!

Spring Golf Day

May 2018 The Kendleshire - Coalpit Heath, Bristol

For once, in recent years, we hit all the pluses with a fine summer’s day and the course was in a good condition with fast and sometimes tricky greens.

A total of 21 OWs and guests had a relaxing afternoon of golf, although the course was more than a little challenging for some.

A splendid two course meal plus a cheeseboard was enjoyed by all in the evening. Once the meal had finished, the prizes were presented by our captain Richard Spackman.

The winner of the Watts Trophy was John Newns after a count back with 32 points. He mastered the greens better than most!

Second place went to Robert Pakeman also on 32 points

Third place went to Peter Beynon after a count back

Guests

First – Steve Shipman 33 points

Second - Pete Williams 20 points

Third – Tony Chopman 20 points

Nearest the pin

Hole 6 – Steve Shipman

Hole 11 – David Pollard

As yet a venue for the Autumn meeting has not been decided, though there were plenty of suggestions from the floor.

For more information contact Phil Hale / Rob Rennicks [joint secretaries] owgolf@yahoo.co.uk.

Invites and details to follow for all events, which are also listed on social media and the website.
The Wycliffian Reunions

The Bear of Rodborough drinks held on 28th April was fantastic with over half of the attendees being newcomers. The weather had been unexpectedly cold and wet but it didn’t put anyone off!

The Cavalry and Guards Club drinks reception in London was very kindly hosted by Jeremy Stevenson (P H 1981 – 1992). There was a great show of OWs who all enjoyed a lovely array of canapes, meeting some new faces and was well attended by recent leavers. These receptions are a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new friends and network. Look out for future dates in emails, on social media and in The Wycliffe Times newsletter.

Class of 2018 Tree planting

Once again an apple tree was planted in The Wycliffe Orchard in June and dedicated to the class of 2018. We look forward to welcoming you to TWS events and we wish you all the very best as you embark on an exciting new chapter!

Pimm’s in the Pavilion

A lovely event where we welcomed staff into The Wycliffian Society as Honorary or Life members meaning that they have dedicated 10 or 20 years respectively to Wycliffe. We would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support and tireless work. Included in this year’s new members were three OWs: Margie Coombs, Ian Russell and Helena Sherwood, who have reached their 10 year milestone working for Wycliffe.


Max Edgson wins this year’s TWS Award!

Following outstanding and well researched presentations from the Yr13 applicants, the panel unanimously agreed that Max Edgson would make a great ambassador for TWS and Wycliffe in the future. Max will receive £3000 per year from TWS for the next 3 years to help support him through university.

We wish Max and the other applicants the best of luck in their summer examination results and their chosen paths. Further details on applying for next year’s Award will be in the next edition of Wycliffe Times.

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Pupils represent Gloucester Rugby

The Wellington Festival involves English Rugby’s 14 regional academies and is the largest academy festival in English Rugby. It is seen as a key experience in a player’s development and transitional experience. Two Wycliffe pupils, Ethan Goring and Will Naish were selected to represent Gloucester Academy Under 16 and enjoyed a week of training and coaching which included matches against Newcastle, London Irish, Worcester Warriors and Harlequins.

Both players adapted well to the demands of the week and have subsequently been retained by Gloucester and enter the Under 17 Academy summer programme.

Jasper Townes and Tom Rowland (pictured) both played for Gloucester Academy U15, in a series of matches which led to selection for the Under 15 Harrow Festival. There were matches against Wasps, Bath, Exeter, Saracens, London Irish and Harlequins.

Following recent DPP trials, Tom Rowland and Harvey Rowland were also selected to attend the South West Development Camp and they both along with Hugo Murray, Jasper Townes and Ethan Freiler – Parker were selected for the summer Under 16 Academy programme.

Wycliffe Athletes deliver brilliant performances

The County Athletics Championships produced some brilliant performances from the Wycliffe Athletes.

Kiran Carter won the Junior Boys High Jump clearing a metre 72cm to gain the entry standard for the English Schools. Kiran just missed out on the Championship record, but he followed up this success to also become County Champion in the Long Jump, with an excellent jump of 5m 90cm. In her first season competing in the 100m, Millie Porter produced a dominant run in the Inter Girls race to finish first in a time of 11m 52sec. This was the fastest time at the Championships for 20 years.

Emma Livingstone managed to record a personal best time of 2min 24sec in the 800m, finishing first in the Senior Girls.

In the 800m, Holly Lovell ran a determined race to finish fourth in the Inter Girls.

Tom Bury ran from the front in the Senior Boys 800m to eventually finish second and Sebastian Clarke finished fourth in the Inter Boys 800m in a fast race.

In the Inter Girls 1500m, an unwell Millie lived up to her potential to finish second, by 0.01 of a second in the 70cms class and 5th in the 80cms – 75cms class.

Kiran just missed out on the Championship record, but he followed up this success to also become County Champion in the Long Jump

Celebrating international success

The Wycliffe Squash squad has had some exceptional achievements, mainly on an international scale.

Tate Harms was selected as the Welsh number 1 for the Under 15 European team championships. Sam Osborne-Wyde and Jared Carter were both selected to represent England at the Under 15 and Under 17 European team championships respectively. Both players proved to be pivotal as England came home triumphant in both. Lily Taylor – French was selected to represent Italy at Under 19 and senior level in European Championships. Lily also returned to Italy to retain her Under 19 National title that she won last year. Meanwhile Lotti Taylor – French came runner-up in the Under 17 Italian closed, thus capping off a fine year for these two fiery Italians.

This summer the World Junior Championships will be held in India. Both Campbell Wells (Switzerland) and Jared Carter (England) have been selected to represent their countries. This is the greatest honour at junior level and we wish them both well at this individual and team event.

Zac picked for high goal Polo team

Zac de Beim has been picked up by a high goal team. “High Goal” at 22 goals is the highest level of Polo played in the UK. The team of La Bamba de Areco is owned by J C Decoux - the owner of the advertising boards seen in airports and all over the place.

Zac is a replacement for Mr Decoux as he is currently hampered with poor health. This is a massive opportunity for Zac to play with some of the best and highest rated players in the world and a huge chance for him to learn more about Polo at the highest level.

So far Zac has played three games, scoring a goal on each occasion. He’s doing a great job as it is mentally and physically demanding playing against the best players in the world at 15 years old.

Zac also took part in an England Under 16 trial match. The team that is selected will play against the USA in July. Zac performed well and at this time we are waiting with fingers crossed that he will get selected.

Alice rides to the podium

Prep pupil Alice Tomblin took part in the Dean Close Show Jumping event at the Rectory Farm. She was Wycliffe’s only representative this year, riding her beautiful new pony, Summer. Having only owned this pony a matter of weeks the pair went out and produced two faultless clear rounds to finish and, by consequence, second in the 70cms class and 1st in the 80cms – 85cms class. Another fantastic result for the Wycliffe Equestrian team.

For comments or news on this publication, please contact us at:

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