



The Wycliffe Times



Inspiring young minds

Wycliffe's Year 9 Project provides pupils with a unique opportunity to develop their study skills and learning habits while researching a topic of their choice.

Introduced in 2014 the Year 9 Project has gone from strength to strength. Due to the pandemic the 2020 winners were not announced until the autumn term but that doesn't diminish their creativity and academic achievements.

"We believe that if pupils have the opportunity to work on any topic in which they have a genuine interest it will stimulate their intellectual curiosity and help them develop the skills and habits that will live with them for the rest of their school careers," said **Mr Dunne**, Deputy Head (Academic).

"Many of the outcomes have been truly outstanding. They have included traditional written reports, publication of books, making of garments, investigations into crimes, creation of podcasts and videos, and the making of numerous physical models."

A number of pupils have gone on to develop their work in the Extended Project Qualification and thereafter at undergraduate level.

Safi Curzon chose a subject - '*Managing Strangles in horses (Streptococcus Equi)*' - which she hopes to study in the future.

"My stables had two outbreaks of Strangles so I wanted to learn more about it in case it happened again," said Safi who won a Gold for her project. "For my future I want to work in equine health so having an insight into one of the most common diseases will be useful."

Pupils work on their project throughout Year 9. They work independently and have opportunities to review work, improve and develop it and to deepen understanding.

The projects can be mainly written, a performance or an event, or a design piece or artefact. All projects have to include a written report of around 2,000 words.

Jonty Jones said he took a lot of time to come up with his topic '*The impact and history of Piracy*'.

"I settled with piracy because I was always fascinated by the **Tom Hanks** film '*Captain Phillips*' and the story behind the film," said Jonty. "Secondly, my father is in the Navy, and that meant that I've been immersed in a maritime atmosphere, which was a major factor of my topic choice."

"The most valuable thing I took from the project is how important it is to be able to

know how to work independently effectively, it is definitely a skill that will be important throughout school life, but also normal life too."

Isobel (Izzy) Watson chose a topic which would both interest but also have a familial link: bees. "My family has kept bees for generations and I have always wanted to learn more about them,"

she said. The most challenging - and rewarding - part of the project was planning and then constructing the bee nest structure out of papier mâché.

"The most valuable learnings were planning out each step and judging how long it would take to finish, including any obstacles which may crop up," said Isobel.

Year 9 Project winners

Bronze

Toby Gaulton - 'Space debris and its impact on exploration'

Maisie Tomlinson - 'What makes a good photo?'

Silver

Poppy Beaumont - 'Can I take the 'Perfect Photo'?'

Logan Fitzpatrick - 'Performance Enhancing Drugs in Sport'

Ryan Hann - 'Designing an apartment'

Aidan Kitching - 'Creating a simple PC game on the web'

Beth Leach - 'What makes the best Hockey player?'

Maddy Small - 'The history of US Presidents'

Gold

Safi Curzon - '*Managing Strangles in horses (Streptococcus Equi)*'

Joe Downey - 'Recipes for people who burn toast'

Takara Harris - 'Development and impact of the internet'

Maddie Haydon - 'The history of Skiing and ski resorts'

Jonty Jones - 'The impact and history of Piracy'

Megan Newton - 'Prescription and development of Medicines'

Isobel Watson - 'The role of bees in the ecosystem'

Our car was one of the most durable



by Seb Forrest, Year 9

We woke up early to get on the minibus that was going to take us to the race that we had been preparing for for over a year.

Members of the Green Power Racing Club arrived at Castle Combe Circuit and started preparing for the race. Due to COVID restrictions, every team had an allotted area in which they could stay.

In the first warm-up we had some problems with the steering as it kept veering to the right which meant it wasn't safe for us to drive. A support vehicle brought the car back along with the driver. After a while, we finally fixed it and everything was okay again.

However, in the second warm-up, our brakes failed and the steering was worse. During our lunch break we worked on it and got the car back up and running again.

In the four 20-minute races, we came last, second to last, fifth to last and sixth to last due to other cars retiring. We may not have had the fastest car, but it was one of the most durable.

Concert attracts online viewers

Thanks to going online, more people than ever before have been able to enjoy the Senior School Teatime Concert.

Usually only a small audience has the opportunity to attend. Thanks to it going online the concert has been viewed more than 150 times.

Year 11 GCSE Music pupils performed a range of music from pop and musical theatre to music composed in the 1700s and 1800s.

Mrs Russell said the musicians were looking forward to putting on more virtual events including the Carol Services.

We're helping the environment

Senior pupils are doing their bit for the environment.

A team of international pupils planted 13 trees including rowan, oak, horse chestnut, maple, field maple, birch, ash and two apple trees on campus.

Following a grant to the Eco Alliance from the Parents' Association Senior School, pupils have so far installed four swift boxes and two bird boxes around the school grounds.



The best Science lesson - ever!

by Harry Vicary, Year 6

In our Science lesson we got to dissect an ox heart. It was massive!

We could clearly see the four chambers of the heart and how the left side was thicker because it has to pump blood around the whole body.

We even got to feel the heart and feel the fat. The fat was almost rock solid. We could see the heart strings and we got to pluck them.

We got to push our fingers through all the different tubes. The heart smelt horrible but it was still the best lesson ever!

For me Prep feels like a Wonderland!

by Mrs Helena Grant, Head of Wycliffe Prep

Magic. The smooth domed glass, the sprinkle of fairy dust and the wonderous snowy scene within. Wonderland.

At Christmas time, no matter which religious or cultural belief we may hold, there is something special about a snow globe. A hidden world which holds secret treasures and buries right into the heart of how we all seek that little slice of magic – no matter our age.

And the most extraordinary thing of all is that the globe-world is just as beautiful settled, as it is when swirling and whirling in the make-believe air.

I feel that I am standing in the middle of the Wycliffe snow globe. There are elements of the school which are so well-trodden, known, familiar, calm: the expertise of the teachers, the confidence of the parents in us, the guidance of the Trustees, the competitiveness between the four Houses, the excitement when fish and chips or burgers are on the menu, the rhythm of the school day which merges into the rhythm of the school week which then becomes the term.

From these settled scenes I gain a sense of true community, longevity and safety.



Children in our care are looked after and are part of this bigger picture of the 'Wycliffe Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School'.

When I meet prospective parents, I have no hesitation in talking of the values which we hold strong here or the dedication of the teachers who look after them.

And, in contrast, the swirling bits of fairy dust which represent some of the changes since September. Inevitable with a new, highly energetic and perpetually smiling Head. Car park systems (if anyone finds a glittery cone tree decoration, please buy one for me!), the weekly vlog, a new style newsletter with lots of photos, preparing for a slightly different Saturday school, a focus on Academic rigour,

enhancing the Boarding provision through an increased activity programme, joining the boys and girls together more - plus the Head visiting frequently, a modern and stylish study, the use of the Ryeford main door (it is SO impressive!), a host of new systems within school which aim to be more efficient and the introduction of 'Keechie' the orangutan for Pre-Prep.

My thanks to the staff team for keeping up the energy and positivity which translates to these wonderful children in our care. As the term draws to a close and I reflect on how it has been, I see myself in the middle of this whirling, swirling world of Wycliffe. How lucky am I? In Wonderland. Every day.

Making the most of Forest School



Come rain or shine, Pre-Prep pupils have enjoyed Forest School lessons this term.

Under the watchful eye of Forest School instructor **Britta**, they have been challenged to complete tasks which encourage them to use the natural environment as their classroom.

They chopped wood, started camp fires and identified a variety of plants and animals this term and loved every minute.

Children have shown resilience in cold and wet weather, creativity when working on artistic projects and great teamwork skills when completing activities as a group.

It has been a super term of learning in the outdoor classroom and we look forward to many more fun lessons throughout the year.

Leading the way in their subject

by Eleanor Casey, Year 8

At Wycliffe, all Prep pupils can become Subject Leaders. They fill out an application form and are chosen based on their work ethic and love of the subject, as well as high attainment.

If they qualify, they are given a badge to recognise their achievement and are set specific tasks to engage and nourish their potential.

There are opportunities for this in every area, from Artistic to Academic subjects, so whatever a pupil's area of strength is, they can receive an extra challenge in that area.

I only arrived at Wycliffe in September, but I am already enjoying an extra challenge in some of my favourite subjects as Subject Leader in English, Maths and History.

Meet our Year 6 eco car designers



by Lottie Beachus, Year 6

We made our own eco cars in Design Technology. Firstly we used the ICT suite to research designs. Then we printed off our ideas and stuck them in our project booklet.

The second week of DT we sketched and annotated our ideas. We started making the frame and putting on some wheels. I tested my car without the electric but the wheels were wonky so I had to change them around.

Then we started making our electric circuits with pulleys. We had to adjust our cars so they ran straight and didn't keep going around in circles.

We did our final tweaks to make the cars go faster and straight and worked on the appearance of our cars.

Drama to reflect the world we live in

Looking Back Moving Forward



Weds 27th - Fri 29th January 2021
Wycliffe

by Miss Scott

2020 will be a year that will live in the memory of our nation and the world for years to come. For our pupils, they won't forget the changes to their education at that time – Teams lessons took over from school lessons and spending all day in front of a screen was the 'new normal'.

Therefore, we believed the production was an important way for the Wycliffe community to reflect on these times and focus on healing and moving forward.

Pupils will work in individual bubbles to create pieces of theatre and music that focus on the world we live in. These will include a comic look at the Teams lesson by

Year 9, a positive and farcical take on the history of the NHS by Year 10, a refugee's journey by Year 11, Alice in 'Covid land' by Year 12 and a profound Year 13 piece focussing on marginalised voices in society.

These will be framed by musical interludes by a range of pupils most of which will be their own compositions and their own personal reflections on the past nine months. This will include an NHS tribute and responses to the Black Lives Matter Movement. Overall, over 70 pupils are taking part either onstage or offstage.

The school production 'Looking Back, Moving Forward' will take place on Weds 27th January – Friday 29th January.

Jerry is runner-up in language contest

Zirui (Jerry) Xue (Year 12) was named overall runner-up in the Nihongo Cup Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools.



He wrote a very creative, well-researched manuscript on the topic of the "History of Navy Curry" and performed an expressive, high quality and witty speech.

"The most difficult part of the competition was organising my words and creating the sentences," said Jerry.

"There were quite a few words that I didn't know so I had to research them online and put them into sentences with the correct grammar. I have learnt a lot of new grammar and words which will be useful when writing exams."

"Being selected for the finals of the Nihongo Cup Japanese Speech Contest is a wonderful achievement, and to get second place in the pre-GCSE category is even more fantastic," said **Miss Revie**, Head of Japanese.

"The Japanese Department is incredibly proud of Jerry's success. He worked very hard and despite the circumstances of this year was still able to prepare and deliver his speech successfully."

Wycliffe will never forget

Wycliffe may have had to mark Remembrance Sunday, one of the most important services of the year, in a different way but it did not diminish its poignance.

The Chaplain, **Rev David Prescott**, led the service which was filmed and shared due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"The purpose of this service remains the same, to remember all those who have given their lives to the service of this country, especially those from this school," said Rev David.

In his sermon Rev David also spoke about the sacrifices made by so many during the pandemic.

"One of the few good things to come out of this time has been a renewed appreciation of the true value of those we now term key workers but whose low pay all too often was reflected in low status," he said.

Rev David talked about how so many, young and old, have made sacrifices as a result of the pandemic.

"We're all called to make sacrifices in our lives. Some of them are small, some of them great and the large majority of them



are made without the knowledge of other people. No genuine sacrifice is ever truly in vain."

The Combined Cadet Force represented the college with great dignity during the service. Readings were given by **Mr Gregory**, **Maddy Palmer**, Head of School, and **Mr Russell**.

Mr Russell laid a wreath on behalf of The



Wycliffian Society and **Ella Fraser** on behalf of the school.

The Year 12 choir sang *In Flanders Fields* and the Year 11 choir performed *For the Fallen*. **Mrs Taylor** played *The Last Post*.

Wycliffe has proudly supported Forces families for 130 years and the Service of Remembrance paid tribute to those who served and are serving our country.



Year 8 planted crosses they had made to show their respect.

A younger pupil said. "The best bit was the silence after *The Last Post*. It gave me time to really think."

This was a beautiful service. Everyone was involved and it gave them all a chance to remember those who have died in the wars.

Music vital for wellbeing

The Prep Music Department has had a busy term as they kept the Music going!

"Participating in musical activities has proven mental health benefits, and of course for so many of our pupils this is their passion," said **Mrs Taylor**.

Orchestra has become Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 ensembles while the older orchestra members focus on their upcoming music exams and scholarship auditions.

Middle Prep Choir has become Year 4 choir and Year 5 choir, and Senior Choir has become Year 6 choir, Year 7 choir and Year 8 choir!

There has already been one virtual concert with another due in a few weeks' time and the Remembrance Service.

Congratulations to **Olivia Deshais** (Year 6) who has been offered a place in the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain Girls' Choir.

Chemistry score best in years

Madeleine (Maddy) Palmer (Year 13) is the second Wycliffe pupil in eight years to score in the top 0.63% of the Cambridge Chemistry, Lower Sixth Challenge.

It is an international annual competitive exam which "is accessible to Year 12 but designed to take them beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think in the way they would at university".

Madeleine's mark of 55/60 put her in the top 0.63% of 6,380 entrants worldwide.

"In normal circumstances, this mark would have resulted in an invitation to attend a Chemistry residential camp at Cambridge," said **Dr Rose**.

"Unfortunately, the current situation means that visiting Cambridge for a week is not possible but this result will still be a very impressive part of Madeleine's university application for a Biochemistry degree."

Coming together to pay tribute

by **Amelia Portlock**, Year 8

The Prep School decided to celebrate Remembrance Day a bit differently. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to go to the chapel.

Luckily, **Mr Arman** and **Mrs Taylor** saved the day with a unique Remembrance Service.

The Wycliffe community came together to remember those who sacrificed themselves to form our world today. The service was led by our Chaplain. Year 7 and 8 were able to watch in the Studio Theatre

while the rest of the School watched on Teams.

Rev David opened by saying a few prayers. The Head Girl and Head Boy gave a Bible reading and two Year 8 pupils read prayers.

Mrs Grant spoke about the importance of remembrance. The roll of honour was read out and a short video was shown to include the choir. **Mrs Taylor** performed *The Last Post* on her trumpet and a two-minute silence was observed.

The Boarders then laid a handmade wreath on the lawn and all pupils from Nursery to

Cookery club keeps on proving

The Cookery Club continues to be one of the most popular activity groups at Senior School.

This year 97 pupils have signed up for the weekly club where they learn cookery skills and get to share their results with pupils. They bake everything from brownies and scones to paprika and thyme fish to soda bread.

The cookery club is run by **Mrs Dytham** and her team of volunteers.

Many Sixth Formers sign up so that they can develop their cookery skills for university. Others join simply because they enjoy the comradeship of cooking and eating together.

It is also an opportunity to learn about each other's cultures. A popular guest has been **Mr Ittayavirah**, Director of IT, who shared his Keralan chicken curry recipe.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Wycliffe Bake-Off will be staged over three terms.



Boarders go Potter crazy

Prep Boarders loved their Harry Potter weekend and who can blame them?

Boarder **Jess Chambers** (Year 5) explains: "I was really looking forward to the Harry Potter weekend because Harry Potter is my favourite set of books and I love the films.

"**Mrs Odiz** organised a lovely weekend where we got to watch Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire on Saturday, compete in a Harry Potter themed quiz, play quidditch and make magic slime!"

The weekend was such a success that every Tuesday is now Harry Potter night. A recent activity was Harry Potter bingo.

"Boarding at Wycliffe is magical because it's never boring," says Jess (who keeps her invisibility cloak in her room). "There's always something to do."



House Drama proves COVID is no barrier

WOW Day is a wonderful hit



Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a 'WOW Day' to celebrate all of their hard work linked to their class topic of 'Our Wonderful World'.

All of the activities were linked to planet Earth in an attempt to inspire them to love and cherish our beautiful home. Children baked globe cupcakes, decorated planet Earth biscuits and created headdresses.

Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 wrote a class poem about Earth's wonderful wildlife and made balloon globes in a task which challenged them to name and locate the seven continents.

Though this year's House Drama had to run a little differently it did not deter pupils displaying their creativity and wit to create five fantastic socially distanced fairy tales.

The brief was to create a 5-10 minute piece of theatre that told the story of an event from the last five years in the style of a fairy tale.

Eve Chandler (Year 12) and **Emily Vaile** (Year 13) led Collingwood with a script from **Freja Telford** (Year 13). Their cast which included an impressive six Year 9s, told the story of Tim Peake and his trip into space.

For Lampeter and Ward's, **Charlie Jones** (Year 13) and **Pippa Lima Taylor** (Year 13) told the story of Meghan Markle's marriage to Prince Harry through the lens of Shrek. It was written by **Nastia Lialina** (Year 13). It included stand-out performances from **Hamish Armstrong** (Year 12) as Prince Philip and **Maisie-Jayne Tomlinson** (Year 10) as Elizabeth II.

Loosley Halls performed a witty take on the election of Donald Trump, telling the story of how the mystical 'Facebook' helped him win. This was amongst the funniest performances of the night, helped in no part by **Aziz Akramov's** (Year 13) engaging narration.

Then Haywardsend and Robinson, led by **Archie Lachlan** (Year 13), delivered a performance of The Great British Bake Off. This included impressive performances from **Emily O'Brien** (Year 12) as Vicky Pollard and **Jacques Taylor** (Year 13) as Gordon Ramsay.

Haywardsfield and Ivy Grove took to their stage with their story of Brexit. Written by **Brendan Ind** (Year 13), **Aeden Cooper** (Year 13) and **Mia Hefer** (Year 13), this script included three interwoven fairytales. These revolved around the central character of Boris Johnson, played by **Dan Taylor** (Year 12). Other notable performances were given by **Takara Harris** (Year 10), **Josh Barker** (Year 12) and **Harry Bloomfield** (Year 10).

Thanks to our judges, **Mr Woolley**, **Mr O'Sullivan** and **Mrs Brown** and to **Mr Murphy** for his technical support.



The winners:

Best Actor: **Dan Taylor** (Year 12) as Boris Johnson

Runner-up: **Azizbek Akramov** (Year 13) as Narrator

Best overall performance

Winner: Ivy Grove/ Haywardsfield

Runner-up: Ward's/Lampeter

Pupils' vote:

Winner: Ivy Grove / Haywardsfield

Runner-up: Haywardsend / Robinson

Overall winners: Ivy Grove and Haywardsfield

Learning about Senior School

by **Issy Carrick** and **Sheyda Fogarty**, both Year 8

Year 8 went for an activities morning at the Senior School. We did multiple activities like Debating, Music, Art and Japanese.

Our first activity was Debating. The scenario was that a hot air balloon was weighed down with too many people and we had to decide who would be thrown out and why.

Our second activity was Art. This was great fun, we did mono-printing and everyone produced some fantastic pieces. Then we learned to greet each other in Japanese and how to say different colours in Japanese.

Our last, but by no means least, activity was Music. This was a really enjoyable activity and we got to use GarageBand and clip different noises together.

I loved every minute of Year 9 day

by **Alexander Maida-Doyle**, Year 9

Our Year 9 activities day was a thrilling experience, one that I would love to do again!

I am a big fan of walking and hiking so when I was told that we were going to be walking up a big hill, I was excited. We learned some interesting facts about the Geography of the area.

Next, I journeyed toward History where we learned all about the interesting facts and history of Wycliffe. In Science, we made rockets out of bottles and using Physics we made them fly!

In Design Technology, we used cameras to make a short film, and I enjoyed every step of it. The final activity of the day was Art. We painted the chapel using crayons and oil pastels.

Ground Force team clean up

Year 8 spent their Expedition Day recognising the immense amount of space we have at the Prep School and giving some of their energy to clearing areas ready for future use.

They spent time in the Forest School area, the old garden centre, helping our Estates Manager paint lines on the pitches and tending flower beds during

their Ground Force Expedition Day.

"My group cleaned and tidied the Forest School area. It looked neat and tidy when we finished," said **Isobel Turrell** (Year 8).

Year 4 explored Woodchester Park as their Expedition Day while Year 5 staged a Mr Tumnus Tea Party and Year 6 journeyed to Selsey Common.

Our House shields draw on core values

Prep pupils were first challenged to re-design a shield for their respective House. They looked at the ideas behind a shield and discussed what symbols mean, debating what makes each house unique but also firmly within our ethos of the Wycliffe core values.

The winners were:

Scott: Noma McBurney (Year 7), whose shield included individual drawings of the varied talents within this House thinking about the strengths it encapsulates.

Lincoln: Anna Leonard (Year 8) included an image of a whale to tie the strengths of the House together, including many names of those in the House to create the idea of family.

Shaftesbury: Elise Workman (Year 5) created a very visual and clear 'S' so there was no doubt which House it belonged to.

Grenfell: May Epton (Year 6) split her design to show the multi-faceted strengths within the House, listing the qualities that were important to the House.

DofE expeditions back on track

By exploiting windows of opportunity between lockdowns, Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants were able to complete expeditions before the end of season this October.

The 24 participants doing Bronze, now in Year 10, undertook their deferred final venture over September Exeat, hiking in the local area and camping at school.

All groups worked terrifically well to achieve their Bronze 'pass' since skills were either new or rusty and they deserve real congratulations for their efforts in navigating some considerable hills to boot!

Despite COVID-19 restrictions we were able to keep expedition integrity intact for the Silver and Gold groups. Their three or four-day routes followed a south to north trajectory more or less faithful to the Cotswold Way, returning each evening to camp on the school field.

Congratulations to the 14 participants who completed Silver finals and also to the four for whom it was their first,



practice venture. The Gold participants' route was physically demanding with a good deal of height climbed over long days of walking involving some tricky navigation. Therefore it is no less of an achievement for **Jasper Townes, Freja Telford, Lucas Rant, Alex Quilliam, Madeleine Palmer** and **James Palk** to have done their final expedition in the local area and they managed this demonstrating terrific teamwork and good humour throughout.



Henry selected for county honour

Cpl **Henry Garrard** (Year 12) has been selected to be one of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets (LLC).

The Lord Lieutenant is the Queen's representative in Gloucestershire and the LLC support the Lord Lieutenant. It is a great honour to be selected and we are really pleased for Henry.

"I am very proud of being appointed as a Lord's Lieutenant Cadet, as I believe I will meet some really interesting people, and hopefully I can make a good impression for our CCF, and for Gloucestershire itself," said Henry.

Henry was the first cadet in his year group to be promoted to Lance Corporal and then the first to be made Corporal.

"Henry has everything required to be a worthy Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, he is trustworthy, organised, diligent and has good communication skills able to speak comfortably to younger cadets, his peers and adults," stated his citation.

From Swahili to Welsh - all in one day at Prep

Prep pupils enjoyed speaking and hearing a myriad of languages during the School's European Day of Languages.

The day gives everyone an opportunity to value and promote all languages and cultures in Europe (but not just those from Europe), raising awareness of the importance of language learning and intercultural understanding.

The day started for many pupils with **Mrs Grant** welcoming them in Swahili. Staff all wore a sticker with the word 'hello' in a language that the children had to work out the origin of. They were delighted to seek out as many teachers as they could and ask them questions to fill in their sheet.

Mr Gaunt had a sticker in Swahili as he spent some time teaching in Kenya (the same school as Mrs Grant), **Mrs Curtis** and **Mrs Seyburn** had a Cornish and Welsh one

to reflect where they come from. Children who speak different languages at home were also able to share words in those languages.

Some Year 7 and Year 8 pupils entered an international competition where they could score points by learning different languages. Our pupils chose to learn some Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Mandarin. Wycliffe came 5th out of 18 on average score which was a wonderful outcome.

Mr Lester explained in an afternoon assembly how it takes all sort of different people and cultures to make the world an interesting place and that's part of what the European Day of Languages celebrates.

"The day was a resounding success with the sound of some many different languages spoken and heard around the school," said **Mrs Perhirin**, Head of Modern Foreign

Languages at the Prep School. "It was the opportunity for all of us to celebrate our diversity but to come together through languages."

What the children thought . . .

"We got into school thinking it would be a normal day but we actually had a whole fun-packed day ahead of us." **Darcy**, Year 4

"I learnt a lot of different ways to say hello or bye in Italian. It was very helpful and there were games too." **Will**, Year 8.

"We had a French lesson that day and I went to the ICT suite and did an online competition. I was working on German and Spanish, **Jemima** on Mandarin. I got to level 200! There were 18 groups doing it and we came 5th which is really good." **Millie**, Year 7

Harvest Festival aids food bank

The Pre-Prep Harvest Festival was a virtual service this year, with pupils from Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 performing class poems and songs in the school chapel.

Recorded so their family members would not miss out, they happily performed with confidence and energy.

Selected pupils from Year 2 stood up and read poems and prayers as individuals; a daunting task but one they completed superbly.

The Harvest collection was gratefully received by the Stroud District Food Bank.

Meet our star poets

Prep children were challenged to write poems based on the theme of 'my vision' as part of National Poetry Day.

Matilda Lane (Year 4) won the Years 3-4 category with **Sophie Taylor** (Year 4) as runner-up. In Years 5-6 **Ethan Wright** (Year 6) won with **Rosa Thomas** (Year 5) runner-up. **Toby Mowat** (Year 8) won Years 7-8 while **Jemima Tapping** (Year 7) was named runner-up.

Poetry Corner

My vision is sad, my vision is bleak,
with empty pavements and empty streets.

No shaking hands, no how do you do,
just me and myself and you and you.

This is sad, this is lonely
but it is how we get around this baloney!

Ethan Wright, Year 6

We're tapping into online events

With no live English Is Not Enough event this year we have turned our attention to virtual events that will help our Senior pupils fully understand the benefits of learning a language.

Throughout the winter we will show pupils webinars from The Language Show including 'Revive, Remix, Reform - The Role Of Languages In Post-COVID Recovery' and 'How to Improve Your Vocab Memory'.

Let's not forget the wonderful webinar delivered by **Mr Lester** entitled 'Utilising COVID-learned Teaching Skills When Back in the Classroom'. This webinar showcased the Modern Languages Department's ability to be early adopters of the latest technology and approaches to support our pupils.

In January we have booked our students onto two Careers with Languages webinars:

• 25th January: This webinar will be directed towards Year 9 as they choose their options.

• 11th January: This webinar will be directed towards Years 11-13.

In each webinar, there will be four speakers showcasing different aspects of using languages in careers. Pupils will have the opportunity to ask questions, either live on the day or by sending their questions to the hosts in advance.

Cadets get chance to build on their teamwork skills

by Cpl Ella Clements and Cpl Faith Fitzpatrick, both Year 12

Unfortunately the COVID-19 situation changed what would normally be a 48-hour CCF activity at Bramley Training Area in Hampshire into a 12-hour one.

We started the exercise by developing our skills needed for section attacks, with the Year 13s as the 'enemy'. Starting in small groups and pairs we used different formations and worked on leadership skills, teamwork and communication.

After practising throughout the morning in smaller groups, we cooked our ration packs and moved on to larger and more complex attacks in our year group sections. We worked on peeling, thinking on our feet and working in fire teams.

It was a very productive and enjoyable day. The day was made especially good fun as we fired twice as many blank rounds as we normally do in a fraction of the time.

Charge! We went into battle to change history

by Flo Smalley, Year 7

It was a crisp November morning as Year 7 prepared for the battle that changed history.

As all of Year 7 sat in the Studio Theatre, we were all eagerly waiting to find out when we were going into battle.

We were introduced to a funny and knowledgeable man called Richard. He explained to us how they would have prepared to go into battle in 1066.

They would have worn a thick material that was waterproof and they wore baggy trousers so the trousers wouldn't rip. They also wore



chainmail, which is made out of many rings melted together. It was very heavy.

Year 7 separated into Shaftesbury and Lincoln as the Normans with our leader William of Normandy (**Mr Arman**) and Scott and Grenfell as the Saxons with their leader Harold Godwinson (**Mrs Grant**).

The Saxons and Normans went into battle with our shields that we had made a few weeks ago.

We were deeply in battle as Harold Godwinson was tragically killed, stabbed to death. In the end the Normans won! Overall it was a great day.

Pupils boldly go as interviews go online

On your mark! Grace raises £200



Year 1 pupil **Grace Kennedy** raised more than £200 for the Bristol Children's Hospital Charity, the Prep School's Grand Appeal.

With her family at home, Grace has run more than two miles, earning plenty of sponsorship along the way. Well done Grace!

Thanks to Wycliffe's Careers Programme, Year 11 and DY pupils are learning firsthand the skills needed for online interviews.

This year's mock interviews will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. Wycliffe's Careers Manager **Caroline Hiorns** explains: "Due to the pandemic it is now the case that pupils will quite frequently encounter interviews done via video, especially for those

for apprenticeships at all levels. It is important that they learn the skills needed for this."

In preparation for the virtual interviews, generic job application forms are completed over a series of Life Skills lessons, developing self-awareness and written skills.

Many of those interviewing the pupils are OWs who generously give their time to support the school.

"As a result of the pandemic, skills are what will set you apart when you are applying for jobs," says Mrs Hiorns. "There are six skills it is important to develop to futureproof your career in these uncertain times. They are curiosity, open-mindedness, flexibility, being proactive, having a positive attitude and perseverance."

During the supervised online mock interviews, which will be held in Sibly Hall, pupils will get an opportunity to practise answering questions from a professional they do not know.

As part of Wycliffe's Careers Programme all Year 11 pupils have one-to-one talks with Mrs Hiorns where they use a career management template to explore their favourite subjects, passions, strengths, interests, values and priorities and future plans.

This is designed to equip them with a structure to aid career decision throughout their lives. Year 12s and 13s also choose to make use of personal guidance sessions with Mrs Hiorns.

Planning for Sixth Form

The Sixth Form Options Evening provided pupils with an opportunity to speak to the Heads of Departments about the Sixth Form subjects and courses on offer.

Following on from the event, pupils then got to try up to seven Sixth Form lessons in our Sixth Form Experience Day. This day finished with a barbecue on the cricket pitch.

"For many it was their first opportunity to

consider a BTEC course or understand how an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is completed," said **Mr Archer**, Head of Sixth Form.

"The day was very popular and helped many pupils finalise what they want to study or helped them shortlist their options so that at the Parents' Evening they were able to ask the right questions."

Artist draws on daily life

Year 12 Art pupils visited the Stroud Valley Artspace for the exhibition of artist **Nicola Grellier** who spent a year making a drawing a day.

Via the transitory state of 'today' the drawings meander through personal experience and collective concerns, with shapes, marks, text and figures staging physical touch, habits, communication and human relationships.

They were posted daily on Instagram with a running commentary of titles, hashtags and interactions which were often humorous and sometimes sad.

The drawings start on June 1st 2019 and therefore track an interesting and perplexing time. Pupils were able to talk to Nicola about her thought processes and the ideas behind the imagery.

Young speakers learn the art of persuasion

by Jemima Tapping, Year 4

We learned about public speaking at Saturday school. Our brief was to write and perform a speech to persuade someone to learn a new sport of the speaker's choice.

I chose Hockey. We did our research from books in the library, which was nice not having to look at a screen.

I thoroughly enjoyed doing this activity as I feel it is great to expand your skills and public

speaking is a great example of that. We all learned something out of doing it.

Mr Broadhead supervised and gave out three great tips for writing it. He said: "Make it fairly short, don't bore people and make it funny!" which was great advice.

Once we had all written out our speeches we went to the studio theatre and the bravest ones from Years 7 and 8 performed. They were all amazing and performed extremely well.

Never too young to be an Eco Warrior

The Pre-Prep Eco Club have been discovering all about Planet Earth this term and what we as humans can do to look after it.

Concerned about the amount of litter they had seen, the children completed a litter pick here at school, tidying up the campus before open day.

In an attempt to discover which materials 'rot or not', they buried glass, plastic and food in the Pre-Prep garden and eagerly dug it up four weeks later. The results emphasised the message that littering is bad and that recycling is so important to the future of the planet.

In one final fun investigation, our Eco Warriors took a tour of the classrooms to see which teachers were wasting energy and electricity by not turning off lights or computers at the end of the day. They now have a 'naughty list' and will continue to monitor staff throughout the year.



OW wins prestigious Science book prize

OW **Dr Camilla Pang** (IG 2010) becomes the youngest ever winner of the prestigious Royal Society Science Book Prize. She is also the first person of colour to do so.

Dr Pang had her debut book published earlier this year. Explaining Humans is a work on Science/Psychology. It is a memoir about someone with autism (Dr Pang) who uses the lenses of Science to understand and model human behaviour. Dr Pang holds a PhD in Bioinformatics from University College London (UCL) and works as a Postdoctoral Scientist. Dr Pang says: "It was a thank you letter to my mum and also a love letter to science, to highlight how understanding and support can change someone's life, by seeing what a person is, as opposed to what they should be." And Dr Pang hopes the book "will give people that missing link so that they can feel complete enough to take the next step".

The Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize is intended to "celebrate



the very best in popular science writing from around the world". Dr Pang was nominated alongside internationally acclaimed authors including Susannah Cahalan, Jim Al-Khalili and Bill Bryson.

On hearing of her success Dr Pang says: "Winning doesn't feel real yet, but it does feel like an incredible honour, to be up there

with people I admire. To have it recognised that I can write, and that people resonate with the book, makes me feel like I have that piece of connection that has always been missing. And that it's okay to feel weird in other parts, because I know that this part will anchor me in feeling human for the rest of my life."

Award changes lives

Those OWs at university are mostly receiving online lectures and seminars; university life is very different to what they had expected. First year students have the additional challenge of trying to establish a social life with little chance of meeting new students outside of their accommodation.

The Wycliffian Society Award is now in its fifth year. Open to any Year 13 pupil, the Award takes the form of a grant that gives £9,000 over three years to a pupil going to university who may not otherwise be able to afford to study in full-time higher education.

A panel of TWS Management Committee review the applications and applicants present to the panel on how the grant will help them at university and what they would hope to give back to The Wycliffian Society in terms of support to The Society.

Following the completion of her BA in 2019, **Stephanie Wynn** (C L 2016) then moved to Fitzrovia, London and began an MSc degree in Art, Law and Business with Christie's Education. She finished this earlier in 2020 and has since started a placement with Christie's in their Rare Book and Manuscript department.

Our 2017 winner, **Rhiannon Tasker** (P IG L 2017) is now in her final year at Swansea studying a joint Law and Criminology degree.

"2020 has been a very eventful and confusing year for everyone. The lack of social interaction was hard for me, as I know it was hard for a lot of people. Luckily, I had the opportunity to work at Tesco doing night work, something I had not done before. This



Rhiannon Tasker

gave me a new experience in retail as well as keeping me busy during lockdown," said Rhiannon.

Max Edgson (P R L 2018) this year comes to the end of his BA in Politics, Philosophy and Law at Warwick. University has been an exciting time of exploring opportunities for Max, having considered careers in law, public relations, and business. He looks forward to working hard for the rest of the year on his startup, which was recently accepted onto the Warwick Incubator programme.



Max Edgson

Sophia Rai (P HE 2019), our 2019 winner, is in her second year at the University of Worcester studying Biomedicine. She joined us for our Futures Fair in early March 2020.



Sophia Rai

She is taking a variety of modules this year and says: "On average the second-year students have 8-10 hours contact time with each module and we are expected to spend a further 108 hours engaged in online learning, reading and assessments. The course has been adapted well; lectures are online and practicals are still in person. I'm currently researching my dissertation proposal in the area of cardiovascular system."

"In my spare time, I have joined the cheerleading society and I'm working part-time as a barista which I thoroughly enjoy."

Nathan Berrecloth (C 2020) wins the TWS

Award 2020!

Presentations from the Year 13 pupils in Spring of this year were once again thoroughly researched and well delivered. The panel unanimously agreed that Nathan would make a worthy ambassador for TWS and Wycliffe. In his two years at Wycliffe, Nathan has taken advantage of the many opportunities on offer here and been actively involved across the College.

Nathan began studying Computer Science at the University of Birmingham in September. He is also playing Rugby. He says: "It was with great surprise and gratitude that I read the email from TWS earlier this year. My degree programme includes a sponsorship in the form of a degree apprenticeship with PwC that covers; summer placements, a 3rd year placement, a salary and a guaranteed job offer if a 2:1, or higher, is achieved."



Nathan Berrecloth

TWS Award 2021

TWS Award for 2021 will be announced to Year 13 pupils by **Mr Archer** in January. The deadline for applications from pupils is 12th February and then interviews will take place in early March. The selection is undertaken solely and independently by TWS management committee and we look forward to receiving plenty of applications – there is £9,000 available!

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Please let the TWS Office know of any announcements to go in the next edition. Contact Victoria Vicary, Wycliffian Society Manager at TWS@wycliffe.co.uk

Announcements

New Honorary Members

The Wycliffian Society welcomed the following new Honorary members this year. These staff have all dedicated 10 years' service to Wycliffe and we thank them for their continued support and tireless work.

Ingrid Chiene, Darren Davies, Sofia Davis, Melody Herbert, Ross Irwin, Miguel Martinez, Kevin Patrick, Catherine Yates.

The Society also welcomes Mrs **Helena Grant** as a new Honorary member in her role as Head of the Prep School.

Births

Our congratulations to: **Vicky MacBean** (HE 1999) and **Nick MacBean** (né Willmore, H 1999) who celebrated the birth of their daughter **Nina** on 15th November 2019, weighing 3.5kg.



Nick Morris (P C 2010) and **Rachel Morris** (P C 2011) celebrated the birth of their son, **Rudy William** on 28 June.



We wish both families well.

Deaths

During the Summer and Autumn term we sadly said goodbye to:

Peter Andrew (SH 1938 - 1942), **Charles Cottell** (H 1938 -1944), **David L Frost** (J S 1935 - 1946), **P Jonathan Rogers** (J S 1953 - 1962), **Jonathan W Makins** (J W 1953 - 1963), **Mike Graham** (S 1959 - 1964), **John G Wilkes** (J W 1956 - 1964), **William Hywel Davies** (J H 1963 - 1972), **Mrs Margaret Thomas** (Former Staff, Hon OW 1985 - 1998 & 2000 - 2007)

To read any obituaries please visit The Wycliffian Society website.

TWS Calendar

February

Sat 6th Wycliffe Big Boats Head, volunteers needed to help run the event. Please get in touch with TWS@wycliffe.co.uk if you are able to assist on the day.

March

Sat 20th **TWS Sports Afternoon**
2:00pm OW Football v Wycliffe 1st XI, The Berryfield
2:00pm OW Touch Rugby v Wycliffe, The Berryfield
 TWS are looking for an OW squad of 12 for Touch Rugby.
2:30pm OW Netball v Wycliffe 1st VII, Ward's Courts
 Match Tea afterwards, spectators welcome.

These events will go ahead subject to the Government guidelines that are in place.

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Sport hasn't stopped

It has been an active term in Sports despite the pandemic. Sports Departments at Prep and Senior have worked hard to ensure pupils are able to keep active and engaged.

Hockey

In Hockey we found ourselves fortunate to have played competitive schools and clubs during the first half of term.

In the second half of term, both Junior and Senior players participated in coaching sessions and a competitive inter-mini league. We have challenged players to make progressions in their skill sets, grow in confidence and practise their match play whilst developing at their own speed. Player-led sessions have proven motivating and successful amongst the girls.

The 1st XI and Under 16 XI played three games each, both winning two and drawing one. The Under 15XI had two games and although both losses they were one of the most improved teams growing in confidence, structure and resilience.

The Under 14XI had three games, winning one and losing two. With it being their first experience and exposure of 11-a-side Hockey the Under 14XI adapted and developed their game showing promising signs for the future.

The revised lockdown programme after half term saw some preseason Netball introduced for Years 9 to 11 to complement the Hockey sessions. Within their year group bubbles, all girls were divided into teams to earn points during each session as part of the 'Lockdown League'. A presentation and prize will be awarded at the end of term.

House Cross-Country

After the disappointment of the 2019 House Cross-Country event having to be cancelled due to the weather, we were blessed with some great weather at this year's competition.

Pupils came to their start lines excited and dressed in their House colours ready to give the course their best shot.

With COVID-19 putting a halt to most sporting activities this term it was great to be able to hold a whole school socially distanced event.

At the finish line at the Tiley Field at the Prep School there was a buzz with noise and colour as the first runners came in.



Senior Captains: **Kavi Rupchand** (Basketball), **Liberty Maher** (Football), **Jack Bloomfield** (Senior Squash), **Grace Denning-Smitherman** (Senior Rowing), **Hugo Murray** (Rugby), **Millie Porter** (Cross-Country), **Rachel Hatherell** (Hockey), **Maddy Palmer** (Netball)



Prep Captains: **William (Will) Welby** (Rugby), **Lucy Bond** (Hockey), **Harry Hursthouse** (Rugby vice captain), **Rebecca McCoubrie** (Hockey captain and Swimming vice captain)

Prep Sport

Prep Sport has looked very different this term apart from a few fixtures early in September.

For all years regular midweek fixtures have been replaced with extensive coaching sessions. This has allowed the pupils to develop at their own speed with a focus on player-led sessions.

Games sessions have been centred around small sided games both for Rugby and Hockey enabling players to think quickly in tighter spaces, creating decision rich environments which has helped to develop clarity of thought in what could be stressful match scenarios.

With no fixtures in the second half of term the Games Programme has made some alterations with the addition of Football and Netball once a week into the games programme as a pre-season to next term's main sports.

Wednesdays have also become a little more creative, with the traditional Rugby and Hockey sessions being replaced with Biathlons, Cross-Country and different mixed sports for the year groups to compete in. These altered options have added more variety whilst still enabling the pupils to continue to work on the fundamentals of each sport.

Extra-Curricular clubs continue to run and the numbers across the school attending Cross-Country is great to see. Boys' Cricket club remains well-attended and the girls are starting to turn up in their droves to Girls' Cricket, promising signs for the terms ahead.

Rugby

On the first day of preseason it was great to see so many pupils eager to get back into some Hockey and Rugby training and looking positively at the season ahead.

From Year 7 through to Year 13 pupils were out on the Berryfield working on fitness, skills and, most importantly, having fun with their friends before the start of term.

The RFU made the move from stage C to D and we were allowed to play competitive Touch Rugby and Ready4Rugby matches against other schools or clubs. The first match was a home fixture for the Senior 1st XV against Minchinhampton RFC.

The first full block of fixtures came against Monkton Combe School with Under 14s through to 1st team all playing quarters of Touch Rugby and the RFU return to play the game Ready4Rugby.

It was great to see so many boys playing and enjoying their Rugby again. As all the matches have been non-contact it has given players a fantastic opportunity to purely focus on skills and fitness in games sessions without the pressure of tackles, rucks and mauls.

This skill-focused, fast-paced game will pay off when we are able to return to full contact Rugby with players more confident in their handling ability and keen to play a high skill fast-paced game.

Eliud's Mile

On the 12 October, 2019, **Eliud Kipchoge** broke the marathon World Record and became the first person to run a marathon in under two hours with 1hr 59min 40 sec.

To mark the first anniversary of this legacy, Wycliffe Prep joined the Eliud's Mile Challenge. Pledging 34 miles towards Eliud's goal of getting people all over the globe to come together and run the world's circumference, 25,000 miles.

Each Prep pupil from Year 3 and Year 4 showed great effort and responsibility spending their games afternoon clocking up individual miles. Pupils can proudly say they pledged 34 miles to a worldwide challenge.



Jack wins scholarship for America

Jack Bloomfield has been offered a scholarship to attend Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Jack says Drexel was his first choice because of its reputation for Squash. He was supported in his application by **Mrs Bobbie Miller**, Wycliffe's International University Admissions Coordinator. "Without

the support of Wycliffe, going to an American university wouldn't have been an option," said Jack. "It's a massive opportunity."

"It is a fantastic success story for Jack and Wycliffe as Jack has been at the school since Year 7," says **Jonny Harford**, Squash coach. "He has won many national

tournaments along the way and a Canadian Junior open. He has also been part of a very successful National Schools side.

"One of the matches that really brought him to their attention was in this year's British Junior Open where he beat a top English player."

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

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