



The Wycliffe Times



Learning never stops



Learning at Wycliffe will never stop and as lockdown came, teachers developed innovative ways to engage pupils, whether they were at school or accessing Directed Learning online.

That sense of community also thrived with virtual House meetings, online challenges, whole school assemblies, golden time activities and a host of other activities to keep pupils in touch.

Pupils' overall wellbeing is Wycliffe's central priority, so when concerns were raised about screen-time tiredness and anxiety, Directed Learning was adapted with changes made in setting homework and our approach to Saturday school.

Across Prep and Senior, staff worked hard to make Directed Learning as fun and interactive as they could. At Prep, that challenge was even greater. "There simply isn't the space to capture every single creative lesson the team came up with – these are just some highlights," says **Mrs Grant**.

Maths

Year 3 investigated shapes and pupils were asked to look for different shapes in their homes, make a list and then create a graph. Year 5 took part in weekly competitions of Times Table Rock

Stars between tutor groups.

In Year 6 **Mrs Curtis** and **Mrs Flake** have held weekly problem-solving activities in breakout rooms where pupils could chat with each other and solve the problems.

Year 7 investigated handling data and were given an ILO (Intended Learning Outcome) task called 'Where do your clothes come from?' They had to look at the labels and then produce a report with graphs.

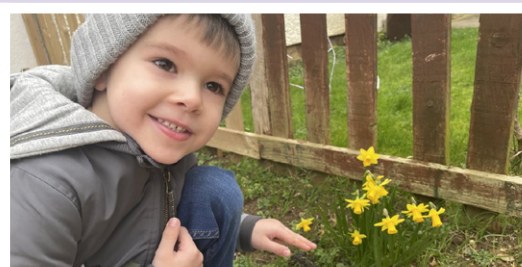
English

Digital literacy, which is part of the English curriculum, involves pupils using a range of Microsoft Word and Publisher features efficiently. The Directed Learning approach provided countless opportunities for the pupils to develop their confidence in this area, inadvertently reinforcing the skills they will increasingly rely upon in the future.

Year 8 worked hard on an independent research task before starting this term's book, 'Trash'. This was an opportunity for them to learn some important tricks of the online research trade and cross-referencing facts against other sources to check for validity.

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[How learning never stopped at Senior School, page 2](#)



Bold & Loyal
1882...

Wycliffe Open Day - Saturday 24th April 2021

Senior School: 9.00am - 12.00 noon | Prep School: 9.00am - 12.00 noon

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Learning never stops

Drama

The Drama department continued with the skills curriculum and children experimented with using their voices and inventing new characterisations using different stimuli. Year 4 continued rehearsals for their Dinosaurs Before Dark production and making dinosaur models for the theatre.

Computing

Pupils developed their coding skills; block coding games and using Python to make programs, games and other artwork. They coded web pages with HTML and learnt about CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). They also looked at the history of computers and where technology could go in the future.

Science

The Science department delivered the curriculum as close as possible to that in school with some minor tweaks and strived to include as many experiments as possible.

Year 4 continued their unit on sound including a listening walk with some specialist listening equipment while Year 7 studied density. This gave them a chance to perform an experiment using kitchen scales and measuring jugs to calculate the density of various household items.

For Year 8, lockdown was as good an opportunity as any to look at fossil fuels and the effect they are having on climate change.

Geography

Pupils in Year 6 always enjoy learning about South America. Being able to use their computers every week to find out about this continent made it an exciting learning experience, regularly completing online tasks and quizzes to help remember the names and locations of each country.

Design Technology

Reception learnt how to recognise different fruit, whilst discussing their texture and colour and learned how to use kitchen tools safely. Pupils in Year 5 demonstrated what they enjoy and what they are good at or tried something new in a range of projects and ideas they could choose from.

History

Year 3 studied the Romans during lockdown. They learnt to define the terms 'invade' and 'settle'; they learnt about the Romans taking over Britain and the reasons for this.

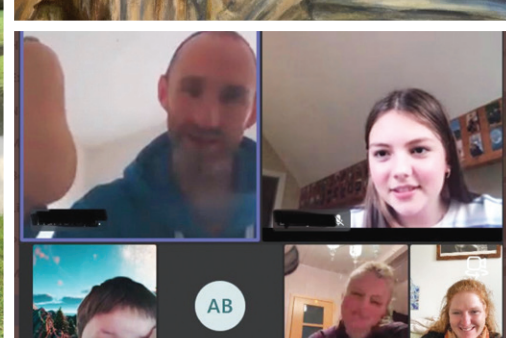
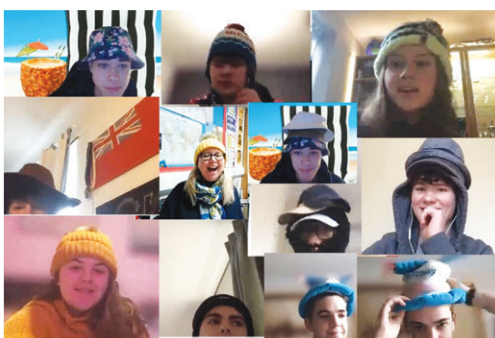
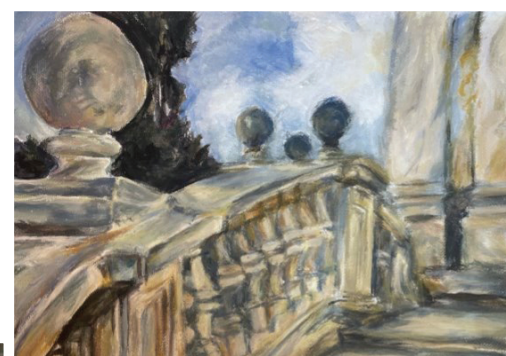
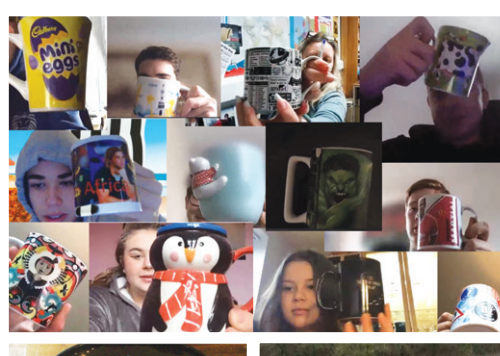
Music

Just before half term we launched a Virtual Spring Concert. This was a delightful mix of performances. Our orchestral musicians have also been busy rehearsing and recording their parts for our latest virtual orchestra. This time we have been working on some music by Handel, and this will be launched as part of our upcoming virtual Music Festival.

Mrs Grant says: "Our priority once the pupils came back into school for the final three weeks of term was to continue their learning at the same time as giving them all the chance to get to know each other again, feel safe in the school environment and get out and about in the warmer weather.

"The Summer Term is going to be jam packed full of exciting learning opportunities, outdoor trips and a positive and happy end to the school year. Our Year 8s will get the send-off they well deserve and all our pupils will go into the Summer holidays feeling intellectually challenged and emotionally resilient."

Innovative approach to Senior classes



Teachers at Senior School went above and beyond to keep pupils' learning on course throughout the pandemic.

Recent in-school teacher training focused upon the benefits of what author **Doug Lemov** terms 'semi-synchronous learning' in the online environment.

In Physics **Mr Clements** said staff took these ideas on board. "Where possible we broke down lessons into chunks, often recording videos of experiments or demonstrations," he explains.

"**Dr Lovewell** (lead science technician) has been involved, setting up experiments in school, recording videos and collecting data sets for all teachers to use."

When Year 11 couldn't do their fieldwork, an intrinsic part of the course, **Mr Pender** decided to take the pupils on a field trip - virtually. He conducted a lesson on the banks of the River Churn explaining variations in river velocity around a meander and looking at floodplain features.

Pupils involved in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) carried on with their research projects.

Included in this year's projects are such diverse topics as 'Palm Oil: A positive power or an environmental disaster?' and 'To what extent does the government have the right to interfere with the monopolistic power of the pharmaceutical industry?'

Mathematicians in DY and Years 9, 10 and 11 took part online in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge paper. **Sarah Zhou** (DY)

gained a Gold certificate and will take part in the follow-on round - the Maclaurin Olympiad.

The History department delivered with a mixture of live and recorded assessments, tasks, information gathering, and activities. Staff engaged pupils in topics from the fall of Saigon to the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, via the failure of the Armada, and the Ottoman Empire banging on the gates of Vienna.

To help with engagement and use of 'cameras on' in lessons pupils also took part in 'Best Competitions' during History registrations, with Best Mug, Best Hat and Best Pet for example. These helped as icebreakers and encouraged even the shy to join in.

Staff and pupils in the Modern Foreign Languages department took on the new technological challenges and they soon all became highly proficient, developing sector-leading teaching and learning. World Book Day was used as an opportunity to introduce some German books, poems and stories to all year groups.

Though unable to run our annual English Is Not Enough event, the department was able to source high-quality webinars to help pupils make good decisions about how they plan to use their languages in the future. The webinar, aimed at Years 12 and 13, features a UEFA journalist, a student of Law with Languages, a University of Oxford student, a member of the Royal Air Force, and an international trainer. The webinar aimed at Year 9 had more than 10 speakers and showed the great possibilities that languages provide.

In Music, instrumental lessons and music

theory classes ran online, as well as Virtual Band and Virtual Choir.

Both teachers and pupils in Development Year worked hard to become adept at using technology, which **Mr Day-Lewis** said has paid off.

"This term governmental timings meant that some of our international pupils had little more than a day trip to the UK at the start of term. The fact that they chose to attend lessons from airport lounges on their way home speaks volumes. Other pupils have boarded (but studied online) for the whole term. Their motivation, good humour and collaborative approach to learning (and teaching) has impressed teachers across the college."

In curriculum PE lessons for Years 9-11 the focus was on fundamental movement skills such as the lunge and the squat. Pupils have been able to work through the lessons at their own pace and progress when they have developed the skills and confidence.

Year 9's Art project on 'Tools' had pupils rummaging through their recycling boxes for card and packaging as well as their garden sheds for subject matter; whilst 'Kitchens' provided the coffee to create 'paint' for some textured backgrounds.

Year 12 have been developing ideas based on personally chosen themes from an old exam paper. Working online has enabled pupils to improve their communication and questioning skills. They have deepened their understanding of how to develop their personal responses to a theme and meet the assessment criteria for A Level Art.

It's great to be back!

by Eleanor Casey and Anna Leonard, Year 8

Online learning has been an educational experience and a challenge that has helped us adapt to many difficulties and technical issues. It has been a true lesson in resilience!

Despite this, we are very excited to return to school. It won't be easy returning with COVID restrictions, but the resilience we have developed will help us continue until

things are back to normal.

With an uncertain future, it can be scary returning to school, not knowing what happens next. Our advice to people who are struggling at this time is to keep positive, nothing can last forever.

As we return, we will have the company of our friends to guide and inspire us forward. We are very thankful for the teachers' support throughout this, as we know they have been



working tirelessly. It's been a long night, but the sun will start to rise as we walk through the gates.

Boarding is action-packed

The House Parents in Prep Boarding made sure all the boarders, whether they were at school or not, kept in touch.

They held weekly online House meetings which included a range of activities from quiz nights and bingo to pamper sessions. The girls at Windrush played wellbeing games with fellow boarders at home virtually and together in the house.

The Saturday morning club continued as we had many younger boarders with us. They made lemon volcanoes, slingshots and took part in a wide range of activities.



All the boarders took part in the 'drop the egg' challenge to build a support for an egg and then drop it from the second floor of Windrush in the hope it wouldn't crack.

Miss Abbott led the alternative Olympic Games day for the children which included blowing a ping pong ball around a course and balancing biscuits on their forehead.

Boarders also played the landmine challenge as a team building exercise to direct a blindfolded partner around a course set with imaginary landmines.

One of the highlights of the term was the piñata provided as



a prize for tuck day, to reward the boarders for their good behaviour and attitude.

Virtual Houses keep us connected

Whether pupils were boarding during the first part of the Spring term or studying from home via Directed Learning, Houses played a central part in keeping together the Wycliffe community.

The dedicated, creative and committed resident staff have gone the extra mile over the last 12 months with activities in the Houses and in the Virtual Houses. Every House held weekly virtual House Meetings. Houses staged simple 'Tea and Toast' daily catch-ups, as well as one-to-one chats.

"Throughout lockdown it has been essential to try to keep Robinson House together. In an attempt to do this there have been weekly catch-ups for different year groups and the opportunity for one-to-one chats provided," says **Mr Naish**.

All of the boy boarders were hosted in Ward's during the lockdown. "There was a 'Boarding Bubble Bake Off' where two teams of boys battled it out to bake and decorate the best sponge cake," says Mr Naish. "No one can actually remember who won, but they were both eaten very quickly."

Other Ward's activities included build a burger, chess, The Homecourt Reaction Game and movie nights. Over half term

Ward's hosted a range of events for boarders, along with Ivy Grove, with events such as salt dough crafts, board game night and afternoon tea. They also turned the entire building into a giant game of snakes and ladders.

The online evening activities were run by Ward's boys themselves. **Hywel Farrow-Wilton** (Year 12) ran a weekly quiz while **Alex Quilliam** (Year 13) ran the weekly Debate Club.

At Collingwood, Senior pupils were proactive in touching base with those who might have been more isolated. There was virtual pancake making, quizzes and board games. The House Team also set up a wellbeing channel.

Many of the Haywardsend older girls ran weekly after-school activities. There was online bingo hosted by **Evie Green** (Year 13) on a Monday, a themed quiz on Wednesday hosted by **Lauren Hartman** (Year 12) and **Issy Small** (Year 12) and a yoga session instructed live by **Grace Dening-Smitherman** (Year 13) on a Friday. There were also Breakfast Club meetings for those girls who wanted to chat before school started and drop-in sessions after school for those that wished.

Haywardsend hosted a Year 9 girls'

Beauty Bingo session open to members of Haywardsend and Collingwood with such exciting prizes as nail polish and Costa Coffee vouchers.



Mrs O had such an impact at Windrush



Staff and pupils have paid tribute to Prep Boarding Girls' House Mistress **Mrs Ana Odiz** who leaves Wycliffe in April.

Mr Tom Gloster, Head of Boarding, said Mrs O, as she is known to the children, will be greatly missed.

"If you ask the girls to describe Mrs Odiz, they would say that she is kind, thoughtful, and caring. As a colleague, she has always been generous with her time and creative, throwing herself fully into boarding life," says Mr Gloster.

"She has that magic ability to make the girls in her care feel loved and valued. Though Mrs O has only been at Wycliffe for two years, her impact has been instrumental in helping to bring the boarding Houses together and creating the warm, inviting and family-like atmosphere.

"Mrs O has a keen eye for detail and the boarding house has benefited from her outstanding interior design skills. Another of Mrs O's strengths is her ability to dream up and implement a whole host of fun, interesting and engaging activities.

"A few of our favourites have been the giant slip and slide, glow stick skeleton dancing, her various treasure hunts, wellbeing bingo and pottery painting.

"Along with Mrs O, her partner Vinny, her daughter Sofia and, the house favourite, pup Noni, will be greatly missed. We are all thrilled that she has the opportunity to progress her career and are certain the boarders at Moreton Hall School will love Mrs Odiz as much as we have."

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We're still together - Prep pupils

by Mrs Hanson

As we moved this term into the exciting realms of Directed Learning, once again the spirit of the Houses remained but in a new and exciting format.

Pupils were able to join live online House assemblies, allowing all pupils the opportunity to share in the successes and achievements of its members.

Scott, Grenfell, Lincoln and Shaftesbury ran assemblies on themes such as inspirational people, making lemons into lemonade and

singing uplifting songs.

"The House assemblies are really fun because you get to see your house friends and interact with everyone," says **Emily Cooper** (Year 5) who is part of Scott.

Anna Leonard (Year 8) agrees: "It's so nice to be in Lincoln house assemblies and know that we are still altogether in the Lincoln community."

Photographs, key pieces of work and top scorers have been shared alongside quizzes, riddles and quotes. Year 8 pupils demonstrated

leadership responsibilities using the Teams meetings as an opportunity to inspire and encourage those lower in the House by supporting family groups in breakout rooms and talking about their Kirby Challenges or topics they have felt passionate about.

House competition winners

Years 3 & 4: Charlie Hartles

Years 5 & 6: Abigail Casey

Years 7 & 8: Amelia Portlock

Another remote house competition was launched, with the pupils being asked to think positively about what they had learnt about the year 2020 and what they are looking forward to in 2021 and put their ideas into either a poem or song.

Pupils mentioned many inspirational things, remembering funny and challenging times and commenting on what they are looking forward to most.

Special mentions: Lumi Robertson (Year 3), Sammy Hughes (Year 3), Ruby Dickenson (Year 8), Sophie Taylor (Year 4) and Darcy Poole (Year 4)

Talented two are invited to join national choirs

Lucy McKerrow (Year 11) has been invited to join the National Youth Training Choir and **Abigail Opaleye** (Year 9) has been invited to join the National Youth Girls' Choir.

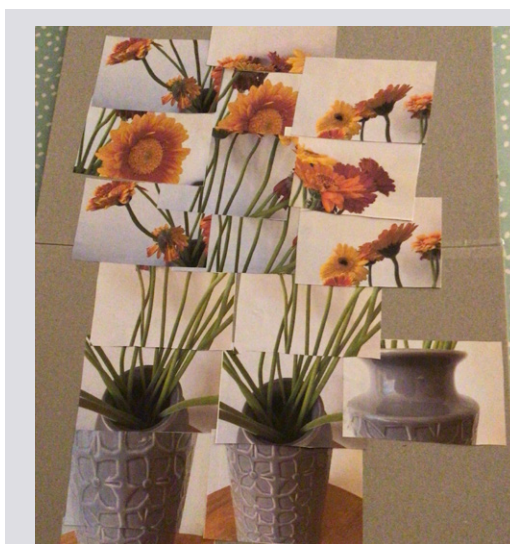
These are two of the five National Youth Choirs of Great Britain that provide a training ground for singers to develop their vocal and musicianship skills in diverse and demanding repertoire.

Lucy and Abi, along with one of our Prep School musicians, will sing alongside the most gifted singers in the UK, following successful auditions.

Members of the National Youth Choirs normally participate in up to two residential courses a year, working with inspiring conductors and composers to develop their voices and musicianship through learning music to perform in concerts around the UK in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall.

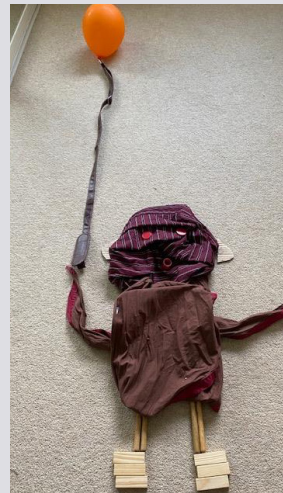
The Spring 2021 courses will run online but there are hopes to run residential courses in the summer.

"We are extremely proud to have Lucy and Abi representing Wycliffe Music at a national level and look forward to supporting them in their singing with the National Youth Choirs," said **Mrs Russell**.



What a creative lot!

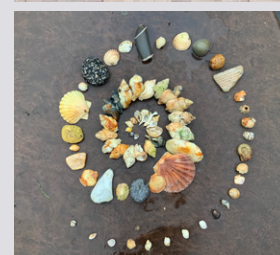
Prep children across all year groups were asked to pick an activity to throw themselves into and get creative during Directed Learning in lockdown.



The activities ranged from making the rainforest in a box to designing a photo montage in the style of **David Hockney**.

Pupils used their innovative thinking to create an Art attack, that is a scene using items in the house. The results were as varied as the pupils involved and included making a dragon out of clothes.

They also did mindful doodles and drew amazing flowers as part of Inspire Your Heart With Art Day.



Virtual Careers Fair expands our boundaries

by Mrs Hiorns

The pandemic gave us the opportunity this year to organise our Careers Fair in a different way. A virtual model guaranteed that we could run the event for pupils wherever they were.

The aim was to broaden pupil awareness of the vast range of future possibilities and the diverse routes to them. We also wished to provide all pupils, whatever their ability or interests, with a meaningful experience in line with government recommendations described in the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Forty different presentations were arranged with universities both in the UK and abroad, wherever possible highlighting one specific subject or group of subjects that pupils may not have heard about such as PPE or Logistics and Supply Chain.

We also had sessions on the full range of

apprenticeships, talks by different professions, from local companies and also by Old Wycliffians (one from Mexico) and parents. A number of organisations also joined us such as the UK Space Agency. We are extremely grateful for the time they gave to this venture and for sharing their expertise.

Our determination to offer a very wide choice of presentations whilst assuring social distancing meant all pupils accessed the sessions through their own device, using headphones. Pupils were engrossed.

We are delighted that in response to the question "what was your favourite presentation?" those nominated covered the full range of topics offered.

One Year 11 pupil said: "The virtual Careers Fair was a great way to get insight into what our futures could look like. It allowed us to pick four different courses to attend, on topics we are interested in.

"I picked a wide variety and it helped me develop an understanding into what life at University is like, and what I might like to study."

A Year 12 pupil agrees: "I found the whole experience exceptionally enlightening. Being able to communicate and listen in on presentations about career pathways was not only fun but very helpful."

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Looking for signs of Spring



Towards the end of February, pupils in Pre-Prep were challenged to spot signs that Spring was on the horizon.

Whether learning in school or at home, they ventured outside in search of all of the wonderful delights Spring brings with it.

They saw daffodils blooming, animals waking from hibernation and of course the warm sun in the blue skies.

Lessons on Mars? That would be exciting!

by Olivia Dunn, Year 5

Year 5 pupils were excited to listen to a fascinating talk from **Mike Grocott** from Space Education as part of our space topic in Science.

The main purpose of the meeting was to talk to us about the wide variety of opportunities in the space industry and encourage us to think about going to space ourselves one day, or have a career in the space industry when we are older.

My favourite part of the talk was when Mike mentioned the

communities on Mars and the Moon that could be built in the future for people to live on and to use as places to stop for fuel before journeying somewhere else. This made me wonder about how it would look and whether I could live there.

As he expected, Mike's most frequently asked question about how astronauts use the toilet in space appeared in the comments, but in my opinion, this talk was very interesting, inspiring, and exciting to imagine living on a planet other than our own some day.

Celebrating our lives

Celebration of Life Day gave us the opportunity to be both thankful and grateful in celebrating the wonderful things we have in our lives, and within our families.

The day began with an assembly with **Mr Irwin** sharing a story about his grandad, **James Irwin**.

The pupils were then invited to learn more about members of their own families, both those they knew well, and those in the family they knew less about. Several pupils shared some of the wonderful things they had learnt about family members that they had never previously been aware of.

Other activities included creating a family tree with each member of the family represented as a

leaf, finding a photo in the house of someone they knew very little about and creating crosswords or quizzes all about their family.

The children also spent time in an assembly with **James Shone** from 'I Can And I Am'. James is a friend of **Mrs Grant's**, who on the verge of becoming Head at Monkton Combe School, was found to have a brain tumour which rapidly had a significant impact on his health and which led to him partially losing his sight.

James has shown himself to be a beacon of light, showing us all that no matter how difficult things become in our lives, we can remain positive and find a way to move forward.

Three win places at US universities

Three Wycliffe pupils have been offered places at prestigious American universities.

Tate Harms will attend Harvard, **Harry Robson** will go to St Lawrence University in New York and **Jack Bloomfield** to Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Tate is following in the footsteps of **Amelia Henley** (L 2014-2016) who graduated from Harvard in 2020 and is working in America as a medicinal chemist.

In fact it was reading about Amelia's acceptance to Harvard that sparked the possibility for Tate, says his father, Mr Harms.

Tate, who joined Wycliffe in Year 9, is vice-captain of the Wycliffe Squash squad. He is currently number two in Europe for the Under 17 age group.

Tate's academics are equally outstanding, says **Mrs Bobbie Miller**, Wycliffe's International University Admissions Coordinator, with all As in GCSEs and at A Level.

"In addition to his achieved grades in the UK, Tate was also able to meet the benchmark test scores on his ACT exam and had well-constructed supplemental essays to go along with his application," said Mrs Miller.

"Managing all of this is a testament to the work ethic Tate embodies. This represents many additional hours of exam preparation, test taking, application completion, essay writing, phone calls with coaches in addition to the already taxing A Level coursework and athletic training."

Harry had been interested in a US university for some time, and chose St Lawrence because of its strong, competitive squash team and the variety of interesting courses available.

Pre-COVID, Harry was in the England top 25 in his age group, and a Cambridgeshire county winner and is keen to get back to playing tournaments.

Harry has impressed the coach and

the admissions team at St Lawrence University and has had several conversations over the last few months about his sporting achievements and what he hopes to study. He has chosen a course in Sport, Business and Anatomy, and hopes to have a career in sport management.

When initially attending the US University Fair in London, Harry made a lasting impression with his injured right arm in a cast, not easily forgotten when you are hoping to play collegiate sports, says Mrs Miller.

"The subtle differences in American education are going to be a real boon for Harry. His affable personality, creativity, ability to work well with others, and his foundation in self-directed learning at Wycliffe will be highly-valued in the US," says Mrs Miller. "I look forward to hearing about his triumphs on and off the court!"

Jack Bloomfield, who has won many national Squash titles, chose Drexel University because it will be the base for the new US Squash Center due to open in 2021.

"Jack has taken a long-standing goal and managed to work around all of the roadblocks that Covid put in his way to realise his dream," said Mrs Miller. "Drexel will be a great fit for Jack, both in terms of his Squash and his Academics."

All three said they would not have been following their dream to study in America without the support of Mrs Miller and Wycliffe.

"I was always interested in the idea of studying in America, and that was one of the reasons I wanted to come to Wycliffe. Mrs Miller helped to guide us through the application process as it's so different from the UK admissions set up," said Harry. "She has helped me and my parents at every stage."

Tate agrees: "The American university application process can be long-winded and took nine months. Without Mrs Miller's support I don't think I would have got through it as I did."



National honours for Wycliffe film work

Wycliffe was highly commended in the national Moving Image Awards.

The Moving Image Awards, designed in partnership with the British Film Institute, recognises and rewards the UK's most talented young filmmakers.

Every year, students undertaking WJEC/Eduqas qualifications in Film and Media are invited to submit their work for consideration by the panel of judges.

Mr Beamish, Head of Digital Arts, said Wycliffe A Level Film pupils are invited to select either their formal coursework product, or indeed any of their own independent work, to submit to the competition.

One of Wycliffe's selected submitted films – The Redemption by **Ernests (Ernest) Ter-Sarkisovs** (OW 2017 -2020) received a 'highly commended'.

"On the A Level Film course the pupils spend the Summer term of Year 12 being trained in how to produce a high-quality short film product, and they then shoot this work over the summer break completely independently," said Mr Beamish.

"Last year, we saw one of the highest collective standard of Film work produced by our cohort of pupils, and Ernest (having entered his work to the Moving Image Awards) has rightly been 'highly commended'. His work was subversive, powerful, and technically strong. Highest congratulations to Ernest for this award and acknowledgment of his work."

You can watch Ernest's film here:
<https://youtu.be/voqTI-sBh6E>

Joel inspires Prep pupils

With our vision including the words 'Pioneering Spirit', we spent a Saturday morning researching the Kenyan ballet dancer **Joel Kioko**.

Born and brought up in one of the largest slums in the world, Joel always wanted to dance – especially ballet.

Using those strengths of character so close to Wycliffe's own core values and aims, he was brave, confident, resilient and committed himself completely to what he wanted to do, he was 'spotted' by a ballet teacher who ran a dance school and charity in Nairobi and through more years of hard work and a refusal to give up, Joel both won a scholarship to the States as well as to the English National Ballet.

"He is inspirational. I used to do ballet and tap when I was younger but for some reason I quit. When I met Joel I got this fizzy feeling through my body telling me that I should dance again," says **Izzy Oytaban** (Year 6).

DofE pupils demonstrate their innovative approach

The end of the Autumn Term saw a flurry of Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (DofE) events. In November, new international joiners in Years 10, DY and 12 spent a sunny Thursday afternoon developing navigational skills around Standish Wood.

In the same month five Year 9 pupils spoke brilliantly at an international sustainability conference and won the top prize of an adopted hammerhead shark for their excellent presentation on food wastage. Thanks to **Mrs Dytham** for her input on this. Congratulations to **Sophie McKerrow, Katie Cox, Eloise**

Bartram, Sam Gregory and **Ruby Clutterbuck** on their achievement.

On 4 December, more than 50 Bronze Award pupils took part in the night navigation exercise on Selsley Common.

During lockdown, many pupils adapted their chosen DofE activities to pursuits they could continue at home. For the Volunteering section, these ranged from litter picking to online mentoring and fundraising. Congratulations to **Harry Tawilks** (Year 9) for being the first to complete by fundraising for Scotty's Little Soldiers (Read about Harry's

challenge on Page 6).

Oliver Hobbs (Year 9) made motivational training videos for children of Kingsway Primary School. His cookery films were a particular hit with the pupils, who then developed their own culinary skills at home.

A few pupils are involved in 'Zooniverse' scientific research projects, helping to classify phenomena ranging from penguins to wavelengths and even white blood cells in Rhesus Macaque monkeys.

Zack Mamayev (DY) has started keeping his local 'Hatiko' animal shelter clean in West

Kazakhstan. He is hoping to raise money to assist the organisation by snow clearing in winter and litter picking in summer. Meanwhile, two pupils busily continue to knit squares of fabric to make blankets for students in need in South Africa.

Protecting the environment through litter collection is a less glamorous but no less worthy activity undertaken by many involved. Others are helping people in need, for example through phone calls to the lonely, or dog walking for key workers to name but a few examples.



We love a good read

Prep pupils and staff embraced the opportunity to celebrate World Book Day (online) in true Wycliffe spirit.

The pupils wore spectacular costumes to represent a book character, or designed book-themed backgrounds to place behind them in online lessons.

Teachers provided an impressive range of fun activities linked with books throughout the day. In Maths, pupils built book towers then used the colours on the spines to create algebraic expressions; completed a 'bookworm challenge'; solved word problems based on **Roald Dahl's** *Esio Trot* and drew book characters using geometric shapes; and more!

In Modern Foreign Languages Year 4 watched a short film about *How to Train*

Your Dragon in French while in Religious Studies, Years 3 and 6 explored the importance of books in a religious sense, as they learned about the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book in the Sikh religion) and the Bible, respectively.

For Science, Jack and the Beanstalk helped introduce Year 3 to their work on plants and Year 5 chose from a range of book titles leading to a scientific activity (*The Gruffalo* = food chains, for example). In Years 7 and 8, pupils were given book riddles to solve – super practice for an enquiring mind.

The main pupil activity this year is to create a 'book boat' for a 'River of Reading' – a collaborative installation that will exhibit special book titles in the reading journeys of pupils and staff.



Harry climbs 'Everest' via his stairs



Harry Tawls (Year 9) walked 58,070 steps – the equivalent of climbing to the summit of Everest – for his volunteering section of his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

He raised £225 for Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity that helps support British Forces children and young people whose serving parent has died. This charity helps provide emotional support and connects other families in the same situation.

"I chose this charity because my dad and many of my family members serves/served in the Army and the charity has really helped families we know," says Harry.

"I signed up for one of Scotty's virtual climb challenges and walked 58,070 steps up my staircase at home. This is the equivalent of climbing to the summit of Mt Everest from sea level, 8,849 metres in total. I did this over five days in half term, doing an average of 374 times a day up and down two flights of stairs.

"My mum kept me supplied with plenty of snacks and drinks throughout the days. My legs ached a lot, but I knew it was for a good cause and I would have the chance with the money raised to make someone's life a little bit better."

Wellbeing is at the heart of all we do

At Wycliffe we value mental health and through our life skills programme and pastoral care we regularly talk about Mental Health and how we can all look after ourselves.

Children's Mental Health Week gave us the opportunity to focus even more on the value of good Mental Health during what has been a difficult time for many.

At Prep and Senior pupils – and staff – were encouraged to explore the different ways we can express ourselves, and the creative ways that we can share our feelings, our thoughts and our ideas.

Through Prep assemblies led by **Mrs Curtis**

and in tutor time, children were taught that it is important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others.

It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

At the Senior School, all the Houses organised activities to promote wellbeing. Ward's ran a one-minute 'Express Yourself' video competition. The Music Department encouraged pupils to express themselves through Music while the Sports Department promoted how being active helps your mental wellbeing.

To support pupils during this challenging

year 'Virtual Houses' were created. Directed Learning and Virtual Houses supported each other pretty effectively, providing a check and balance for pupils (and staff) who have been struggling at a given moment during the remote learning periods.

"Our truly dedicated, creative and committed resident staff have gone the extra mile over the last 12 months. Every pupil may not have felt the need to engage but for those who have it has been an invaluable source of fun, friendship and laughter at a time when it has been all too easy to feel alone," said **Mrs Corbin**.

"The pastoral care we have been able to provide from a distance has undoubtedly been timelier and more effective as a result of the Virtual House approach."

Science Week is soaraway success

Pupils from Years 3 to 8 were involved in a range of activities for Science Week.

There included discussing the digestive and respiratory systems of birds (Year 8), the classification of slow worms (Year 7) and the skeletal and muscular systems of birds (Year 3).

Mr Holroyde said: "Dave, who is a falconry expert and specialises in exotic animals, visited Wycliffe as part of our celebration of Science Week.

"This was a perfect tonic to the monotony of spending most



of the term on a screen and a chance to celebrate Biology outside of the classroom."

Meet the builders of the future

During Directed Learning at home and inspired by the brilliant picture book *Iggy Peck, Architect* by **Andrea Beaty**, children in Pre-Prep were challenged to create wonderful buildings of their own using a range of materials.

From Nursery to Year 2, pupils really engaged with this task, producing amazing houses, tall skyscrapers and even a replica version of the city of Bristol!





An insight into media

Wycliffe hosted its biennial BTEC Digital Content Production (DCP) Employer Involvement event.

This year the event was online and involved Wycliffe pupils and pupils from St Peter's High School, Gloucester.

It involved a series of lectures, question and answer sessions, and the setting of a practical creative task, all streamed live through Teams.

It featured special guest Wycliffe parent **Piers Leigh**, an established DoP (Director of Photography) of both Film and TV who guided pupils through his experiences of the industry, gave top tips, and set an optional practical task.

Eve Chandler (Year 12) said it changed her views on careers in the media industry.

"The most important thing I took away from Piers Leigh's section on careers is if you are lucky enough to get work experience in the

media industry you have to be present in the moment, you only have one shot at this.

"Don't go on your phone or think about 'how can I get my next Instagram photo to show my friends I have this amazing opportunity'. Just take the opportunity with both hands and enjoy yourself."

Mr Beamish, Head of Digital Arts, said: "In addition to the inherent creative nature of the BTEC DCP course we offer at Wycliffe, one of the great things about it is that it is designed to provide a sample of what working in the creative media industries is really like, as well as provide links with industry professionals, as was done through the 2021 Employer Involvement event.

"These such things are incredibly valuable, and might even change the course of a young person's life, should they take advantage of them. My great thanks to Piers for delivering such a fantastic event for us."

Mr Leigh's website is: www.piersleigh.com

Help PASS make a difference

Joining the Parents' Association Senior School (PASS) is an excellent way to keep in touch with what is happening at Wycliffe.

"PASS gives parents a unique insight into school life," says chair **Helen Denning**. "During the twice termly meetings (currently on Zoom), the Committee hears pupils presenting funding bids for subject, house, club and individual activities.

"You can learn more in one evening about what is going on at school, than from a whole term of conversations with your own teenager! In addition, it's a great opportunity to meet parents from other year groups and share issues and information."

So far this year PASS has awarded grants for Christmas decorations and a churro stand for Wycliffe Hall House dinners, storage equipment and three new bee suits for the Beekeeping Club, as well as a new vehicle for the GreenPower Racing Team.

There was also the Combined House Bid, led by **Mr Naish**, which all Houses could bid for to provide activities or equipment that could be shared by everyone and be COVID safe.

To date the grant has been used to buy an

outdoor cinema screen, an outdoor table tennis table located permanently at Collingwood, a marquee for additional shelter to be used by year group bubbles outside Lampeter and back drops for photos at the House Christmas Dinners.

Mr Naish has started plans for the new outdoor trim trail which will be in four locations spread around the school. There will also be some one-off outdoor activities during the Spring and Summer term.

"PASS has significant funds available to support innovative and ambitious pupil initiatives," said Mrs Denning.

"If you would be interested in shaping how these funds are allocated, now is a great time to get involved. We are also committed to help build community spirit within the parent body, hopefully through a social event or two, COVID rules permitting!"

To find out more about PASS, contact: Helen Denning (Chair) helen1.denning@hotmail.com or Sue Goring (Secretary) sue@coombemill.co.uk

You can also take a look at the 'Wycliffe College Parents Group' Facebook Page, where parents can post questions, sell secondhand uniforms and connect with each other.

The Wycliffian Society

Getting back in touch

During Lockdown 3, TWS have been calling Wycliffians from the classes of pre-1970 to hear how they are coping. We have very much enjoyed hearing stories about school, life and families and, where we can, we have helped OWs re-connect with contemporaries; including two OWs who had lost touch but shared a dormitory in Lampeter nearly 80 years ago! We have also spoken to two retired GPs who have volunteered to help with vaccinations; **Bill Hart** (H 1967) and **Huw Williams** (J S 1969). And, as a result of our conversations,

a number of OWs have committed their memories to writing and added new 'Memory' pieces to our website. On the other side, there has been sadness, as we have heard of Wycliffians who have died, are ill or who have struggled with loneliness. Thankfully, for most, there is light at the end of the tunnel as many have now received their first and, in some cases, second vaccine and a sense of hopeful optimism is gathering as families plan to see one another again and hug grandchildren and/or head off to the golf course!

Announcements

Fourth Head of Wycliffe College sadly passes away

Hon OW **Richard Roberts**, fourth Head of Wycliffe from 1967 – 1980, passed away on 15th February aged 89 years. He will be remembered for overseeing considerable changes at Wycliffe; including the admission of girls into the Sixth Form and the building of the Music Department. He developed a successful blend of tolerance and discipline, insisting always on the highest standards but at the same time recognising that times were changing and that changes were needed also within the school.



On leaving Wycliffe in July 1980, Richard became Head at King Edward's, Witley. He and Wendy then enjoyed a long retirement in Suffolk, with local activities, some part-time supply teaching in earlier years, a lot of sailing and some writing. When he wrote to The Wycliffian Society in the Autumn last term, he counted himself extremely fortunate in all this.

Richard is survived by his wife **Wendy**, his three sons, **Jamie**, **Ralph** and **Don** who were at the Junior School (as Wycliffe Prep

School was then known), nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

New Year Honours

Major **Joshua Conway** (P C 1996 – 2004) was awarded an MBE in this year's New Year Honours list. Josh works in the part of Defence that runs all UK Operations and has been heavily involved with the Defence's contribution to supporting the Covid-19 response.

Deaths

This term we were notified of the following OWs who have sadly died and whom we say goodbye to:

Frank Walker (P H 1931 – 1937), **David Newman** (J S 1934 – 1941), **Michael Cowl** (P S 1935 – 1940), **Tony Denby** (J H 1938 – 1946), **Dr Tony Hampshire** (P SH 1940 – 1948), **David Webber** (J SH 1940 – 1949), **J Bernard Jones** (J H 1942 – 1952), **Harvey Haine** (P J SH 1944 – 1953), **Keith Paget** (J S 1948 – 1954), **Alan Metcalfe** (P J SH 1950 – 1957), **Thomas Alger** (J SH 1953 – 1958), **Lance V Waumsley** (J SH 1957 – 1965), **Martin Bishop** (SH 1960 – 1965) and **Colin Youde** (JH 1961 – 1968)

To read any obituaries visit:

www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/news/obituaries/

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Wycliffian Society

[thewycliffiansociety](https://www.thewycliffiansociety.com)



The Wycliffians



[wycliffealumni](https://www.instagram.com/wycliffealumni)



The TWS Calendar

APRIL

Mon 19th Summer Term begins

MAY

Sat 1st TWS Summer Sports
11:00am OW Cricket v Wycliffe 1st XI, Wycliffe
2:00pm OW Tennis v Wycliffe
2:30pm OW Netball v Wycliffe
4:00pm Match tea, spectators welcome

TBC TWS Golf Society Spring Meet, location TBC
To play or spectate in TWS Summer Sports please contact the office team on TWS@wycliffe.co.uk or phone 01453 820439.

These events will go ahead subject to the Government guidelines that are in place at the time. For updates please visit our website or visit our Facebook events.

Class of 1970 Virtual 50 year Reunion

22nd January 2021



We didn't want a pandemic to stop our events, so in January gathered together 11 OWs for a Class of 1970 virtual reunion via Zoom. As well as OWs reminiscing about school days; their last school Play – Billy Bud – Scout expeditions and staff they remembered, they also updated on the intervening years; sailing, golf handicaps, holidays and careers in telecoms, the City, engineering and the medical profession to name a few. At the end email address details were exchanged and connections were renewed all from the comfort of their own home.

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

Prep embraced the challenges



Prep pupils replaced their usual Football, Hockey, Rugby Sevens and Netball games sessions with Strava Challenges, Skills shows, Wednesday circuits, horse riding and plenty more.

The children managed to successfully run 655 kilometres since the lockdown began, successfully getting Wycliffe to a fellow Round Square School in Paris, France.

Pupils also joined the Senior School in fun organised contests posted through social media challenging the pupils to have a go at new skills in various sports.

In the last week before half term we had the Trick Shot Challenge where pupils were asked to show us their best trick shot. We had everything from a crossbar challenge to a very cool bottle flip with the top five trick shots each winning a £10 sports gift voucher.



A special mention must go to **Rebecca McCoubrie** (Year 8) who set herself the incredibly tough challenge of completing a lockdown Iron Man. Rebecca has so far completed 26.2 miles of running and 112 miles of cycling. The 2.2-mile swim will be completed now that we have returned to school. A truly great idea and brilliant achievement. Well done.

Our virtual Return to Sport games sessions have returned in anticipation for the final three weeks of school and each week pupils could join in Football and Netball skills and fitness sessions in their games lessons to prepare them for the return to sport.

Now that we are back we are fully immersed in all sports. Our extensive after school club programme has returned to ensure there really is something for everyone.



We're keeping active

Throughout lockdown, Wycliffe Sport has found ways to adapt and keep pupils active.

The virtual games were back on with Pilates, CrossFit and a stretching and fitness Circuit on offer each week as well as plenty of pre-recorded videos on the Wycliffe YouTube channel to suit all abilities and interests.

Squash and Rowing kept their virtual training and social catch-ups going preparing for a return to competitions in the summer.

The Wycliffe Strava Club was back up and running and this time took on a competitive edge with each House competing to clock up the most miles, running, walking or cycling each week.

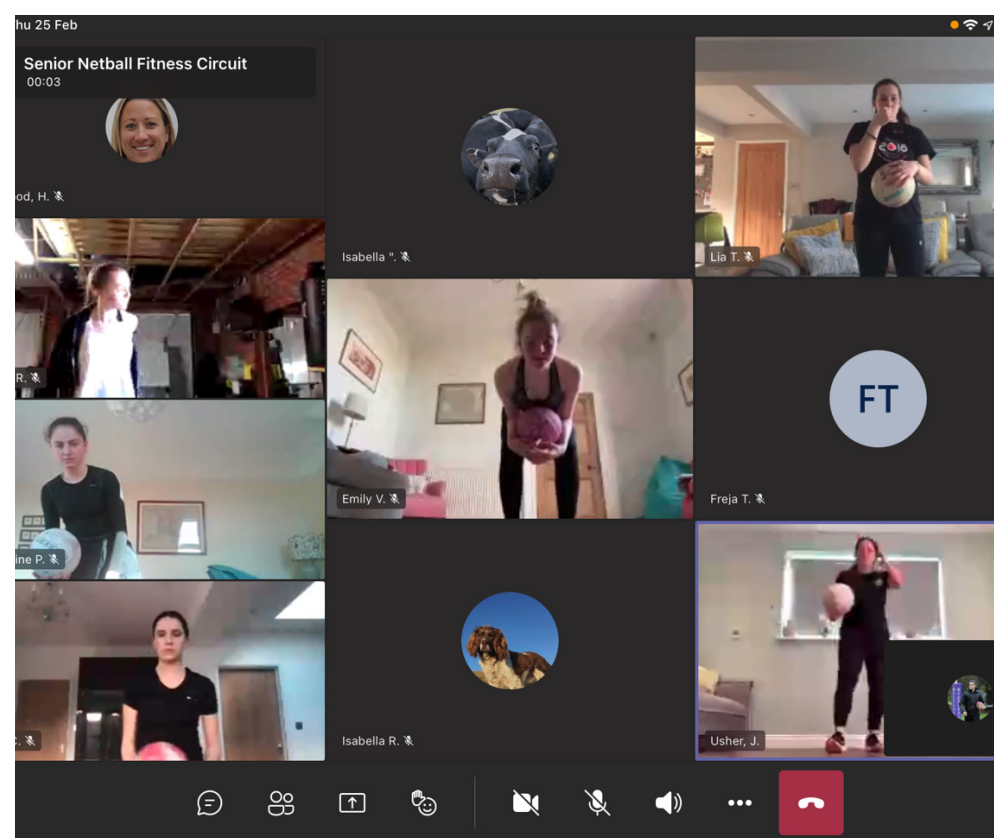
In addition to these activities there were fun challenges posted through social media challenging the pupils to have a go at new skills in various sports. In the last week before half term we had the 'Trick Shot Challenge' where pupils were asked to show us their best

trick shot, we had everything from a crossbar challenge to a very cool bottle flip.

In preparation for the return to school on 8 March, we started to plan our return to school sport with our virtual Return to Sport games sessions. Each week pupils could join in Football and Netball skill and fitness sessions in their games lessons to prepare them for the return to sport.

The response was positive and we had some of the Senior pupils leading the skills and fitness sessions to their peers which was great to see. Since the return to school we are now planning a full term of summer sport.

In Squash, we encouraged captains to lead lunchtime circuits to break up the school day. One being a 35 min core workout and the other being a 40 min HITT workout. Nearly every member of the 16-player squad attended. We also run a fun Squash quiz, a home-court reaction challenge and a Kahoot quiz. We held a special Q&A interview with former three times World Champion **Nick Matthew**.



Rowers are ready for regattas

Rowing training virtually through lockdown was a tough one for many, especially if they didn't own a rowing machine.

However, pupils did a fantastic job. We had over 92% attendance from the 'performance group' (Juniors 16-18). There were daily sessions run including rowing machine, strength and conditioning, circuits and weekly athlete catch-ups.

They were supplied a training programme that had been adapted to suit

circumstances. The programme consisted of two sessions a day.

The lockdown training has set us up perfectly for a strong Summer season with the expectation we can perform at the highest level at the regattas. The main focus events will be: National Scullery, Inter-regional Championships, National Schools, National Championships, Henley Women's Regatta and Henley Royal Regatta.

During lockdown Wycliffe secured a gold medal at the British Rowing Virtual Championships for the team relay (girls). Well done to **Grace Dening-Smitherman** (Year 13), **Stella Fielder** (Year 12), **Rachel Egan** (Year 12) and **Yasmin Howe**. Grace also finished 4th in the Under 18 girls' solo.

The boys won a bronze in the team relay. On the team were: **Archie Faskin** (Year 13), **Sami Martin** (Year 12), **James Brixey** (Year 12) and **Gwil Johnson**.

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

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