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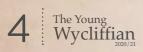












The Head's Speech

Chair, Trustees, Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to our Years 3 to 8 Speech Day 2021.

I would like to begin by thanking **Brigadier Bacon** for his kind words and for steering the ship that is Wycliffe and for his wisdom and commitment to the College.

I would also like to personally thank him for appointing me to the role of Head of the Prep School - a position which I am privileged to hold. To all Trustees I thank you for the time and consideration which you put into Wycliffe, and to **Mr Gregory** and **Mr Wood** for their support this year.

When prospective parents sit in my study and ask what my 'philosophy' of education is, I speak passionately about the skills that young people are going to need in the future and how communication, creativity,



problem solving, relationships, resilience and adaptability are all important.

It is with a slightly wry smile that I therefore stand here today, with a new 'adapted' speech for Speech Day having asked the Wycliffe Team to do all of those things – problem solve how and who we need to move where, work out who needs to know which communications and have we kept the right people in the loop at the right time with the right information? Asking teachers to quickly move transition day online, change the plans for Sports Day and how to teach remotely and in school on Thursday so that everyone gets the best educational experience that they can. Moving wonderful

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I speak passionately about the skills that young people are going to need in the future and how communication, creativity, problem solving, relationships, resilience and adaptability are all important.

"





events such as the Year 8 Formal Wycliffe Baccalaureate Dinner to September, but keeping the prize-giving online and the opportunity for every Year 8 to share about their time at Wycliffe and to make sure they all have their voice, making sure that relationships remain positive even in times of severe stress.

Mr Irwin and I have managed to find humour even whilst managing this very difficult situation and this is a very important skill to have in life. Resilience we have seen in abundance with our pupils – some of them having had their time at Wycliffe cut so short and without due time to say goodbye to their friends and teachers, some of our teachers who are exhausted at this time of year still putting the pupils first and working out how to make their tutor groups or classes feel special and adaptable. We have had different teachers in different lessons, a swap of House Swimming and Sports Day, Speech Days not being able to go ahead. We are living through the skills that all of them are going to need going forward.

None of that makes light of the situation we are in and I would not want anyone thinking that I am doing so. This has been a devastating end to the year and my heart goes out to all of you, staff and pupils, who were not able to finish in the way that you wanted to or are now missing family events or trips because of isolation or illness. I also hold close to my thoughts anyone who is currently ill and hope that it gets no worse, and that we see a swift recovery.

The Young

Wycliffian

The Prep School would not be the incredible place that it is without the teachers and support staff who give their creativity,

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Resilience we have seen in abundance with our pupils – some of them having had their time at Wycliffe cut so short and without due time to say goodbye to their friends and teachers.

77

care and commitment to the pupils at every level, whether that is a plaster at breaktime, trying to juggle phone calls, proofing letters to go out, looking after my lime and lemon trees, answering random questions, through to challenging academic tasks or a shoulder to cry on when things are tough.

The teaching team this year have given every ounce of their professional duty to the pupils and this should not be underestimated for what they have provided for all of the pupils. One of my jobs, when school has closed is to share with them my inbox full of messages I have had from so many of you extending your thanks and gratitude for all that they have done both academically and pastorally and for the very evident sense of care which they show all of your children. For that I thank you.

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The school grounds and buildings have been looking fantastic thanks to Kester and Mark and their teams, the new Astro has been a winner and hopefully will get even more use next year for matches and the transport team continue to be cheerful each morning as they drop off our Wycliffe pupils from the Silver fleet. We welcomed Mel into our Prep Catering Team in March and we are all enjoying her creative flair and high standards of food. We also wish to thank the Parents' Association for their support this year - from paying for trips to Copsegrove Farm, ice cream vans, ice rinks and the Pre-Prep Pantomime showing fingers crossed for Fireworks in November!

There are some who are leaving







us – a normal part of an end of year ceremony, but nonetheless an emotional one as at Wycliffe, it is becoming clearer and clearer to me, that members of the team turn colleagues into friends and care deeply for the pupils they have worked alongside with for many years.

I wish onward good fortune to teachers **Mrs Nicola Gidman**, both as a parent and member of staff since January 2014 – hugely influential within Sports, within the classroom and as a Head of House, **Mrs Julia Seyburn** who has led her House with such passion and been an important part of the English team, **Mrs Emma Tapley** who has been with Year 4 since January, **Mrs** Lisa Nicholls a Senior School Teacher who has been teaching Geography at the Prep School, the Assistant House Mistress Miss Lucy Moule and her dog Flo, she was also a pupil here at Wycliffe. Teaching Assistants Mrs Jacqui Bayliss, who it should be noted has given 30 years of her care to Wycliffe - that is a lot of children who will remember her from their early years education and we thank her for this extraordinary commitment, Mrs Jade Maloney who has worked in Reception for four years, Mrs Georgina Rummings who is phenomenally efficient in the one day per week she has been in school and Mrs Marie Perkins who has run our excellent After

School Care provision in Pre-Prep.

The Young

Wycliffian

I wish good luck in his further studies to gap year student Mr Jamie Sinclair and to Graduate Assistants Mr Dominic Jones, Mr Dan Goodchild and Miss Lucy Parker, and to Mr Andrew Topping who has been a 1:1 TA for this year and our Admissions Manager Miss Briony Armstrong who many of you will know from your first points of contact here at the Prep. We have three of the Matrons leaving from Boarding: Kate Yates, Vicky Harris and Julie Saynor who have all played a key part in the lives of our Boarders and two cleaners are retiring after significant time at the Prep School – Mrs Daphne

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As a message to every single pupil at Wycliffe; each of you has been an individual jigsaw piece in making this a successful and memorable year in Wycliffe's history.

77

Lines and Mrs Gill Payne. I shall especially miss those offers of tea from Gill at 7.30pm at night when I am still at my desk and the vacuum cleaners snaking around my feet.

I would also like to extend my good wishes to those pupils and parents not in Year 8, who are leaving us at the end of this term. Please remember you are always welcome back to Wycliffe! We would love to hear how you are getting on.

As a message to every single pupil at Wycliffe; each of you has been an individual jigsaw piece in making this a successful and memorable year in Wycliffe's history. You may not be named in my coming summary of the year but all of you should relate and smile at some of the memories it may jog.

My memories of the Autumn term centre around the faces of

the pupils as they came round the corner and saw live reindeer in the Sensory Garden, the sheer noise from the shrieks in the pool from the competitive duck race, the mostly terrible moves as the whole school had a 'Jerusalema' dance-off, laughter with Mr Guest as he determinedly skated on the rink (thank you to the Parents' Association). New pupils being brave and taking part in the Autumn concert, painted arrows around the quad with Mr Irwin's famous one-way systems, languages day, Tim Kirk from Borussia Dortmund talking about how he trains with a reflective and growth mindset approach, Mr Arman's Battle Of Hastings with Year 7 with plenty of gnashing of swords and the 'oooaaars' of the Pirates in Year 3, the incredible Wycliffe Literature





Festival put together by **Mrs Muszasty** with designer-level installations by **Mrs Florio**. We held a beautiful Remembrance Service in the quad with a Senior Ensemble pre-recorded anthem and the Carol Concert included recordings from Year group choirs.

The Spring term with the sudden move to Directed Learning brought with it pupils doing yoga in their gardens, interviewing grandparents for 'Wycliffe Celebrate Your Life' day, that insight into all of our homes with parents or siblings in the background and of course the number of cats and dogs and hamsters that we all now know intimately!

Meeting **Paul Braithwaite**, Everest Explorer and **Jan Lang** in Sri Lanka in our 'World Comes to Wycliffe' day, enjoying **Mrs Davis**' flamenco dancing, some pupils interviewing **Mr Joel Kioko**, Kenyan Ballet Dancer, the **Mike Grocott** space talk, cooking flapjacks with **Mr Arman** on a Friday afternoon, pamper nights online with the Boarding House, Pre-Prep and Prep Quizzes with parents and teachers. **Mr Gaunt** set the 'can you bake a pie chart?' challenge with incredible results and we will never forget some of the space biscuits cooked for **Mrs Curtis'** group.

In Boarding there was the incredible 'California Weekend' to say goodbye to **Mrs Odiz** and the purchase of a new barbecue which **Mr Gloster** remains particularly fond of and a wonderful sense of family for the Boarding pupils who were on site during lockdown. **James** Shone from 'I Can and I Am' spoke to us all and to teachers about blowing up our balloons of self belief. House Music had 50 submissions online and then a wonderful display of instruments was created in the Studio Theatre entrance. Each and every one of you will have something fun and exciting that you will remember from that time.

This term it has been a pleasure to be outside more and to even have some Cricket fixtures! Clubs have been packed out every day after school, the pool has been busy and the nets used well into the evening. **Mr Taylor** and **Mr Shopland** have had a frustrating year with so few sporting opportunities available for fixtures. I thank them for their creativity and a positive approach throughout it all. Boarders have been out on trips for ice cream, to the Cotswold Water Park or had crazy golf on the tennis courts. Middle Prep had a wellbeing morning and Expeditions Day saw long walks along the canal and Slimbridge and the Year 8s helped to tidy up the Sensory Garden area.

We have put on four full productions thanks to **Mrs Askew** and **Mrs Taylor** and their team - 'Dinosaurs Before Dark' with notable mentions to **Martha Woolley, Sophie Taylor** and the scary T-Rex **Charlie Hartles**, 'Aristocats' with catlike brilliance - **Olivia Deshais**, **May Epton, Olivia Leigh**, plus **Laurence Williams** for superb effort and then Abigail Casey as the very nasty butler, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' with superb performances from **Henry** Blythe, Harry Hursthouse, Eli Paton, Sheyda Fogarty and Anna Leonard, 'Moana' with incredible singing from Flo Smalley, moves from Albie Spiers and charisma from Thomas Cox and such a sense of team work, confidence and fun from everyone involved. The lights, camera, action continued with Courtroom Drama from a group of Year 8s where clearly the murderer was found not guilty by the witness team

We have had three residential trips out this term - Year 4 Hooke Court, Year 6 South Cerney and Year 8 to the Black Mountains. The pupils have come back buzzing from each one with stories and adventures from their time away – this is where memories are made.

The Year 8s also managed their mini-sports tour to The Wave.

Academically we have to make mention of the Bebras Computing Challenge competition which saw incredibly high results from **Eleanor Casey** and necessary mentions of **Abigail Casey** and **Tilly Strefford**. I would also like to mention **Arthur McKay** for some superb Philosophy and RS essays which he has written this year. Our Subject Leaders – numbering





38 pupils - continue to excel and share their passion with their teachers and peers and I am sure many of you saw my vlog of a few weeks ago which introduced you to two boys talking through their experiences of being part of that programme.

It is also a pleasure to announce that we had seven Year 8 pupils gain a Distinction for their Wycliffe Baccalaureate - these scores are added together combining both academic achievement as well as personal characteristics. Congratulations to Charlie Ashman, Henry Blythe, Eleanor Casey, Ruby Dickinson, Rebecca McCoubrie, Millie Newman and Amelia Portlock.

The Kirby Challenge is deserving of special mention, notably **Bade Martins** for his fencing workshop and running assemblies from Lagos, Nigeria for the whole school on the culture of his home country, **Charlie Ashman**

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It is also a pleasure to announce that we had seven Year 8 pupils gain a Distinction for their Wycliffe Baccalaureate - these scores are added together combining both academic achievement as well as personal characteristics. for his Barefoot Cricket raising money for The Foundation of Goodness, a charity in Sri Lanka which culminated in a Zoom interview with former Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara, Nissi Akhator-Stephens for organising her many dance competitions in the Boarding House along with research into different cultural hairstyles, Matthew Workman painted and personalised cards for members of Oldbury House Care Home in Stonehouse, Amelia Portlock and Millie Newman raised money through cycling and working with Tesco's Community Outreach to fill hampers for Charlie's Cancer Support and Feed the Hungry and provided 60 letters and gifts for local care homes, Lexi Bartlett held a pamper

12 The Young Wycliffian

night to raise money for Cancer Research, to name but a few.

Our nominated School Charity, The James Hopkins Trust, will receive £4,308.34 and we have raised an additional £1,000 which has been sent to other charities throughout the year.

Out of school I would like to celebrate Olivia Deshais, who was awarded a place at the National Youth Girls' Choir, Lottie and Codie Beachus who have been selected to represent England and southern England mounted games teams respectively, Millie Downey selected for Gloucestershire County Cricket and both **Harry** and Archie Larkman selected for South Gloucestershire Cricket. Florrie Matthews on winning the Rotary Club's District Level Young Writer's Competition, Molly May Gibbons for her

actions last Summer playing a part in saving two people's lives, the numerous pupils who have done cycle rides, charity runs etc to raise money for causes close to their own heart. Our own **Amber Birkett**, a 1:1 Teaching Assistant walked 100km in 24 hours to raise money for Duchenne UK, and **Mrs Curtis** threw herself out of a plane skydiving for the British Heart Foundation.

This term the Ultimate Rugby 7s Academy came for a scouting visit and I am delighted that Will Welby, Harry Hursthouse and Codie Beachus have been invited to a Summer Skills camp.

I would also like to extend particular mention to the Prep School SMT – **Mr Irwin**, **Mrs Askew**, **Mr Aherne**, **Mr Gloster**, **Mrs Flake**, **Miss Potts** and **Mr Guest** – they have worked closely as a team and been there with level heads and have shared a strong sense of perspective and advice to me as I have got to know the school. The Heads of Houses -Mr Arman, Mrs Hanson, Mrs Gidman and Mrs Seyburn who have managed to retain that sense of house identity when the Houses have not been able to get physically together! A variety of competitions, online and in school have kept the points piling in and I would like to make mention of the Winners of Shield redesign: Noma McBurney, Anna Leonard, Elise Workman and May Epton; winners of Autumn Literature: Abigail Casey and runners-up Teyo McBurney and Brandon Lovewell; winners of House Song: Charlie Hartles, Abigail Casey and Amelia Portlock; the Photography competition: Charlie Geddes and Hugo James





and Cooking: **Max Fullman** – an excellent video of him baking a cake! Looked delicious!

I am recording this just before Sports Day results are in, but from the noise coming from the Sports field, you would think that the whole School plus are out there. Some stories already coming in of such a 'I'll do it' attitude from pupils and offers to run more races, take part in different events 'for my house'. I hope that some of the pupils at home and in Boarding also felt that they had the chance to join in.

I would like to thank the three Head Girls and three Head Boys for this academic year, Amelia Portlock, Sam Burrell, Anna Leonard, Henry Blythe, Lucy Bond and Oliver Thomas, and wish that they had been given the opportunity to be able to do their duties and roles more fully, without restrictions. The Prefects have also been excellent

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I am recording this just before Sports Day results are in, but from the noise coming from the Sports field, you would think that the whole School plus are out there. Some stories already coming in of such a 'I'll do it' attitude from pupils and offers to run more races, take part in different events 'for my house'. in their positions and I shall miss our Tuesday lunches and very funny videos! The team this year was made up of: Millie Newman, Rebecca McCoubrie, Elliot Marson, Micah Groves, Charlie Ashman and Eleanor Casey.

I announced in Final Assembly yesterday that the new Head Boy and Girl for September will be **Millie Downey** and **Austin Webster**. Congratulations to them both.

As the 2021 Speech Day draws to a close, we are going to listen and watch **Mr Matt Davies** play *'Jerusalem'* on the organ. I wish all Year 8s all the very best as you go forward to Senior School – whether Wycliffe or beyond, and I look forward to us having the Formal Dinner when you are all back in September. I wish all pupils, parents, staff and Trustees a very sunny and relaxing holiday.

Same and the second

Pre-Prep

14 The Young Wycliffian

Nursery

Starting with the topic All About Me, children painted self-portraits and talked about the similarities and differences between themselves and their family groupings.

Number WOW day was where children took part in activities to support their numeral recognition and counting skills through hands-on activities including using playdough to make numerals.

We moved on to Harvest festival, Diwali, (festival of light), Bonfire Night and Christmas. Children used coloured rice to make their own rangoli patterns outdoors as part of Diwali celebrations and made christingles as part of our Christmas celebrations.

Children took part in a Harvest festival celebration in the chapel and Nativity in the Studio Theatre with the rest of Pre-Prep.

We had a very exciting surprise visit from reindeer.

The Spring topic was On The Farm followed by Chinese New Year and Mother's Day. Children learnt about animals, food and healthy eating. Activities included using fruit to print a repeating pattern and children used cotton buds to copy Chinese writing.

The Summer term topics included 'Jack and the Beanstalk', where the role play area included a giant beanstalk and castle. The children were able to dress up in extra-large size clothes and enormous shoes to be the giant and visited the Studio Theatre to learn about the harp and to listen to it being played.

This was followed by learning about mini beasts and the life cycle of a butterfly through focus story '*The Hungry Caterpillar*'. The children used their observation skills to paint a picture of a mini beast and learnt about symmetry by decorating a butterfly.

We ended the year with activities to support a topic of Summer Fun including sand and water play and exploring shells.

All of this was interwoven with activities to support children's skills in writing, learning letter sounds, shapes, counting and numeral recognition!







Pre-Prep



Reception

What a year we had. In the Autumn term we performed *'I'm a Little Hedgehog'* in the Harvest Festival. Myrah taught us all about Diwali and we made crosses for the Remembrance Service.

Christmas is our favourite time of year. We took part in 'Chrismaths', an event which included lots of Christmasthemed Maths activities. Father Christmas not only came to visit with a present for everyone but he brought his reindeer!

During the Spring term some of us were in class and some were using Directed Learning online. We welcomed **Mia** to our class. We did lots of work around 'Jack and the Beanstalk' including making our own beanstalk and creating reward posters to catch the giant. We love books and reading and we all dressed up for World Book Day.

In the Summer term we all took part in NSPCC Number Day. We played lots of number games and worked on our maths skills - all at the same time! For WOW Day we made boats and took part in boat races. It was all action at the Pre-Prep Sports Day where we all took part. Our favourite race was the 200m.

We wrote postcards from the Antarctic.

We had our own beach in the classroom and one of our subjects for the term was 'Sun, sand and sea'. What a great way to end the year!





Years 1 & 2

Children in Years 1 and 2 had a busy year, jam-packed with activities that not only helped them learn but also to have fun.

In Autumn, the children worked to the theme of Our Wonderful World. They took part in a topic WOW Day, creating globe balloons, baking planet Earth cupcakes and writing a class poem describing our amazing home.

Year 2 learned all about British currency and money at Christmas time. They set up their own Christmas-themed cake stall outside the classroom and sold cakes to pupils from Pre-Prep and Year 3. It was all part of Chrismaths, which sees the children take part in Christmasthemed Maths activities.

They made potato hedgehogs linked to the story of 'The Hodgeheg' by **Dick King-Smith**. They searched school for resources and carefully crafted these cute creations.

During the Spring term children continued to learn with Direct Learning from home. They loved learning CCVCC words in their daily phonics lessons. They were challenged to show meaning of words in a unique manner, with some brilliant results. Year 1 learned to read time on an analogue clock.

In the Summer term, Years 1 and 2 made arrays out of shells while learning about the fundamentals of multiplication linked to our topic of Sun, Sea and Sand.



Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep activities

The Pre-Prep has a range of clubs which run a wonderful variety of activities throughout the year.

In Nursery, children in the Sensory Club have used their senses to explore a variety of materials including shaving foam, oats, sand and water. We made and explored playdough and slime made from corn flour and PVA glue. We have used coloured sand to make sand pictures and explored and described the textures of the different materials.

The Ball Skills Club saw children work on fundamental skills of throwing, catching and kicking whilst enjoying a match at the end of each session. They played Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket!

The Craft Club runs a wide range

of activities throughout the Autumn and Summer terms.

In the Autumn term, children in the Eco Club learned all about global warming and climate change. They made posters encouraging everyone to recycle. They also learned about deforestation, persuading **Mrs Grant** to add a 'no paper' day to the school calendar. They also went on a litter pick around school.

The Summer term Science Club saw children learn about famous scientists including **Sir Isaac Newton** and **Alexander Graham Bell**. They conducted experiments most weeks. They investigated gravity by making paper helicopters, sound by making their own telephone and and even began creating electrical circuits using equipment from the science lab!

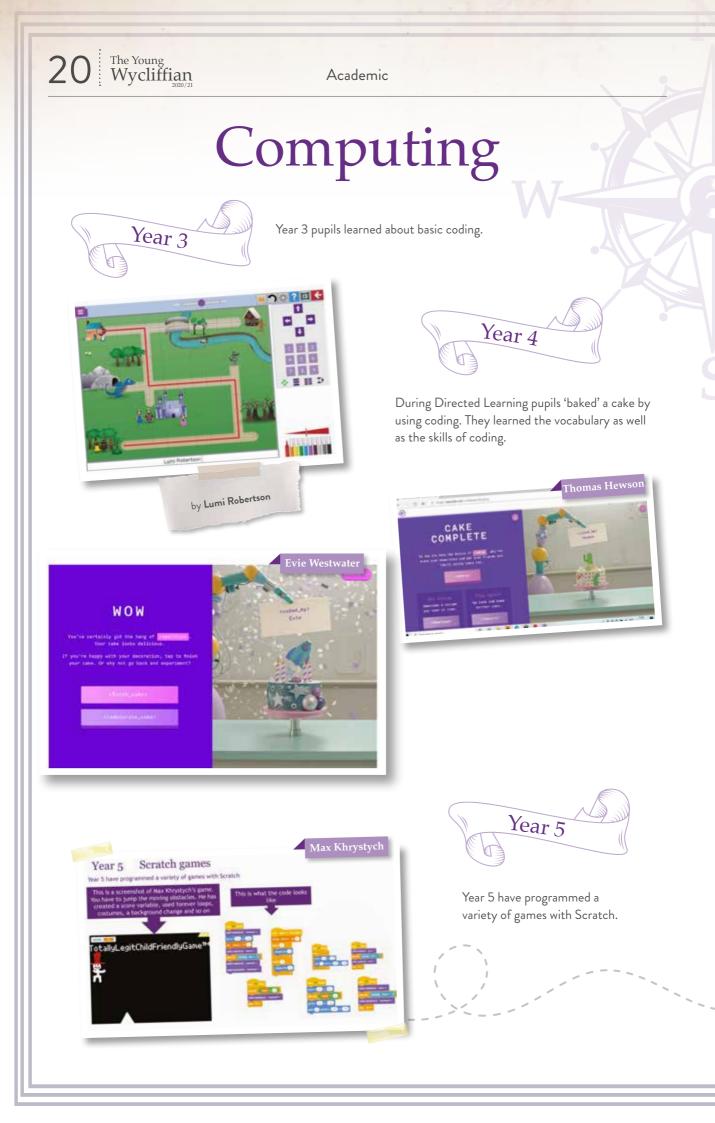
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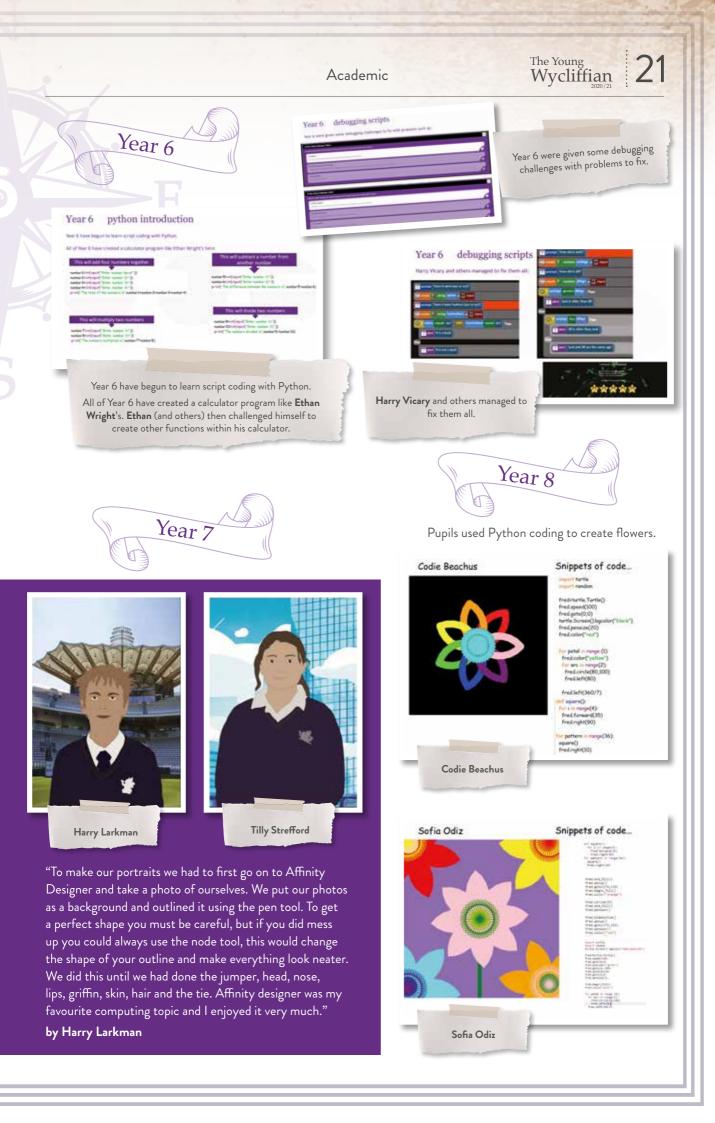
The Ball Skills Club saw children work on fundamental skills of throwing, catching and kicking whilst enjoying a match at the end of each session.











Design and Technology



22 The Young Wycliffian





Design and Technology had a festive feel when children made Christmas stockings.





Nex by Darcy Poole and Cassius Healy





The Young Wycliffian 23





During Directed Learning pupils took the opportunity to either demonstrate what they enjoy and what they are good at or try something new.









Children in Year 6 did blockprinting on material and then used fabric to create cushions.



Year 7 pupils created T-shirts out of plastic bags as part of their reusing materials project. They learnt about the energy industry, electricity, heat, transport, wind, hydro, solar, greenhouse effect and climate change. With this information in mind and a real understanding for why we need to recycle our materials, reducing our carbon footprint, they set out designing and planning how they could reuse and recycle.

with pulleys.



Year 7



Pupils used Tinkercad to create 3D buildings, by Micah Groves.



Year 8 designed individual T-shirts illustrating a theme or message. The project helped them improve their ability to use illustration software and to understand the printing process.



During the Year 7 D&T Club Jonathan Phillips designed and made a waterwheel.

Drama



24 The Young Wycliffian

> Year 3 children produced a multitude of videos and images of Drama work carried out at home including acting a scene from 'A day at the beach'.





Year 4 performed in 'Dinosaurs in the Dark'

by Martha Woolley, Year 4

At the start of the Year 4 Drama Week I felt nervous and excited at the same time! When we went to the Studio Theatre and started to practise, I no longer felt nervous, I just felt excited!

As the week went on we learnt new skills like facing the front and how to express ourselves even when we are not saying our lines. We also learnt stage directions.

When we started to learn new dances as well as new dance moves we didn't want to stop. When the acting and singing were added it was just amazing.

Then Mrs Murray came to the Studio Theatre and



gave out some fantastic costumes. Everyone loved them. The Dinosaur costumes were amazing. When we gathered together we looked like a rainbow. All the colourful lights were fantastic as well. It made the play look amazing.



During lockdown, Year 5 spent a great deal of time making puppets and creating performance videos.



The Young Wycliffian 2020/21 25

Year 6 performed in 'The Aristocats'

by May Epton, Year 6

At the start of the play Madame (who lives in Paris) has decided to leave all her money to her cats (Duchess, Toulouse, Berlioz and Marie) but her butler Edgar gets jealous and decides to catnap them when Napoleon and his gang of dogs chase Edgar away.

The aristocats wake up scared and cold when O'Malley the alley cat find them and decides to help the aristocats find their way back to Paris.

When the aristocats finally return home, Edgar puts them in a box and sticks a Timbuktu label on the box but Roquefort the house mouse comes to save the day.

All the animals get together to save Duchess and her



Year 7 stage 'Moana'

by Millie Downey, Year 7

Our Drama Week was very fun and productive. Everyone was excited to perform 'Moana'. On Monday, we went through the play



and my favourite part was the dance to 'You're Welcome'.

As we were familiar with 'Moana', Tuesday was a very enjoyable time. I loved listening to **Flo Smalley** sing and **Molly-May Gibbons** being funny on stage. After two busy days everyone was tired but we managed to pull through together with the help of **Mrs Askew** playing the B game to keep us going.

We were all excited to perform 'Moana' but we were a long way off from being ready to perform it. So, everyone gave it their all and proved to Mrs Askew that we were going to be brilliant. Later on Thursday, we did a dress rehearsal and we all loved our costumes.

On Friday, it was all going smoothly until **Ruby Corbin** was unwell, so I put myself forward to play her part (in case her bug was contagious) but it wasn't and she came back. Friday afternoon, we performed and it was the best we ever did it.



Year 6

kittens, finale song and end of play.

The play was funny and upbeat, full of songs to dance and laugh to and the play interacts with the audience making it a fun experience for all ages.



'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

by Charlie Ashman, Year 8

Year 8 during Drama Week performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

We started the journey at the beginning of the week in the Studio Theatre. We had been told our parts and (most of us) had learnt our lines over the holiday the previous week.

Spirits were high as we started to go through the script for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and block out our positions on the stage. With different timings and places to enter, everyone worked hard to remember their cues and acts.

Everyone worked so hard to secure the script in their minds and when the time came, seats were filled and the cameras were rolling, the whole cast was ready and prepared for the curtain call.

The play went amazingly and the saying 'it will be all right on the day' really swung into action. We were all in full drama mode and gave it our all.

Everybody was singing their hearts out and acting their best. All the hard work from all the Year 8 pupils, **Mrs Murray**, **Mrs Taylor** and **Mrs Askew** definitely paid off!



English



26 The Young Wycliffian

Year 3 worked on cave description work in the Spring term.

Blood gurgling and echoes of bats are distracting my ears. The running water is a waterfall. Silence is like a silent grave.

Bugs are crawling all over the cave. Stalactites are hitting me in the face! Stalagmites are tripping me over. Musty air is filling my nostrils. Damp is like my dog when she's come back from a walk. I am as excited as a kid.

by Sammy Hughes





Year 4 read the poem 'What is Pink?' by **Christina Rossetti** and discussed what different colours mean to us. We then had some fun writing our own colour poems. We worked independently and all poems were finished within an hour!

At the beginning of the Summer term we all wrote stories based on the picture book '*Float*', to read to Year 1 and Year 2. We all had two or three pupils to read our stories to, we worked hard on them and we are very proud of them. The stories were about a boy, a boat, a rainy day and an adventure. We used techniques to write it such as metaphors, similies and repetition. We all enjoyed making paper boats.

by Dan Williams and Tom Hadley, Year 4





For Eco Week Year 5 wrote eco-themed sentences including some figurative language as a warm-up task!

Winding vines wrapped around the magical tree, like a cobra around its prey.

Albie James

Slowly, the sound of rushing water drowned the eager shouts of my pursuers, jade clouds of ivy erupted from the rotten trees like lava from a volcano

Ibrahim Abdur-Rahman





Year 6 each wrote a paragraph to create the story 'The Girl and the Fox'.

Sizzling with anger, the girl crouched over the bloodstained bodies of her ducks. The question was, 'who did it?'

On the ground, next to the sunken patches of blood, the girl spotted miniscule paw prints leading into the deep, dark woods. Without a doubt, she knew who had done this crime... it was a fox.

Teddy Spurr

Senna Loftus

The fox, which was hiding in the shrubbery, looked out at the clearing. It was empty, except for a lantern lying on its side. He crept out, only to be immediately pinned to the ground by lona. She pressed a bone knife to its throat. Her face filled with rage, she stared into its wide black eyes.

Abigail Casey



Year 7 wrote about their happiest day.

As my thoughts were tugged back to Earth, I slowly remembered where I was. I could feel my dreams pulling at my brain, begging me to close my eyes once more, but I refused the feeling, because I knew what was happening today...

I slipped my clothes on and raced down to the breakfast that awaited me. My brother and I stacked our plates with waffles, eggs and fruit and wolfed it down like a pair of starving gorillas! Before mum and dad could stop us, we darted down to the lukewarm water and the peaceful waves. We approached our friends, Hettie and Martha, and chatted excitedly about the adventure that awaited us today!

by Florrie Matthews

realised what she was doing to the fox. The little girl got off him. As fast as time, he was gone. George Dummer

Staring into each other's eyes, the girl saw a

reflection of herself. One minute she was as

angry as the devil himself, the next she had



Year 8 worked on their creative writing.

Paul slept badly that night. He was on holiday and was trying to relax, or at least that was, until he heard a scream. It was a long, piercing, shrill screech, however when it did finally stop, Paul could still hear it ringing in his ears. He had to help. Then he heard a low-pitched growl. Now it was his turn to scream.

A large shadow appeared above his bed: a shape with many arms and legs, with leathery webbing in between the thin, bony limbs. A single eye on what could have passed for its back, but the most terrifying thing wasn't the eye, or the limbs, or the lack of any other human features. It was the mouth.

by Micah Groves

History



28 The Young Wycliffian

Pupils have enjoyed studying about Prehistoric Britain. They researched the archaeological site, Star Carr, using iPads and found out that in the Stone Age people made headdresses out of deer skulls and antlers! So they made their own antler headdresses.



"Boudicca was married to Prasutagus king of the Iceni tribe. When he died, she became queen. But the Romans took all her lands, tied up her and her daughters and flogged them. Boudicca was outraged. She refused to give in to the Romans, then she decided to take them down! So she gathered an army of different tribes to stop the Roman Empire. They fled quickly to Camulodunum (the capital) they burned the city to the ground. Some people think Boudicca drank special poison and fell down dead."

Rawdon Dickinson



Pupils stepped into some ancient sandals for their Walk Like an Egyptian Day. They created serpent headbands and golden jewelled collars and spent the day creating Egyptian art.

Sixth Form pupils supported the Year 4 pupils in their studies about World War II. The children wrote letters as evacuees and received replies from their 'parents', that is the Year 13 History pupils. They also celebrated VE Day with afternoon tea and a tea dance.





In the phalanx, soldiers would stand side by side overlapping their shields to make a wall of protection. Most soldiers carried a long spear called a doru and a short sword called a xiphos. A full set of armour included a shield, a bronze breastplate, a helmet and greaves that protected the shins.

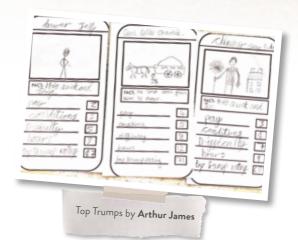
Wilf Rodgers, Year 5, as part of their studies on the Greeks and the origins of the Olympic Games.



The History Squad brought the Anglo Saxons' world to life for pupils during a workshop.



Year 6 focussed on change and continuity, exciting and inspirational figures and the horrible reality of children working in difficult circumstances. We had an interactive Victorian style lesson, with them participating in typical lessons and using writing implements. We had a go at a recreation of a narrow tunnel for a Victorian mineshaft and analysed and evaluated Victorian toys.





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.

Flo Smalley





Who was Henry VIII?

Later on, Henry's health faded, we know this beause a modern historian said 'At the end of his life **Henry VIII** was so fat that three men had to haul him out of bed'. Although this isn't entirely reliable it would surprise a lot of people as over the years his character has been tweaked, it's like Chinese whispers. He started executing many people, it is thought that in his time he executed 60,000 people. Henry's life went downhill!

Eleanor Casey

Henry VIII was supposed to be the 'Best King in History', but was he really? This so called 'amazing king' was born in 1491 and died at the age of 55 in 1547. He executed between 57,000 and 72,000 people during his reign of 37 years. Is that really what a good king would do? I do not think so. However, he was a strong leader and the people of England listened to him because he was such a good communicator. He was also fairly talented, speaking 7 languages and being good at sports and a fantastic horseman.

Amelia Portlock

1

Modern Foreign Languages



30 The Young Wycliffian

Pupils had a French ICT lesson on items in a pencil case.



Year 3 worked on learning the names of all the animals from 'Ours Brun, dis moi' by **Eric Carl** ('Brown Bear, what can you see?')

Je m'appelle Sammy. J'ai un chien. Mon chien s'appelle Phoebe. Mon chien est blanc et doré. Sammy Hughes

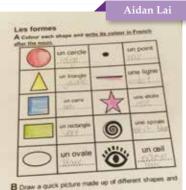
Je m'appelle Fu'ad. J'ai un chien. Mon chien s'appelle Simba. Mon chien est marron et noir.

Fu'ad Habash

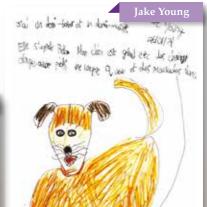
Year 4 pupils learned about shapes in French. They created a 'Wanted poster'

Year 4

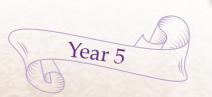
of a person or a pet and applied their knowledge of adjectives to describe their characters using the pronoun 'il/elle'. They were able to describe their personality, size and nationality.







Bellet ost with none it gate at sprint. JAT Abile H



Mrs Davis and Mr Broadhead worked with Year 5 on writing a description of their pet or teddy using 'il/elle a' and 'il/elle est' and lots of adjectives. They also made posters to accompany their written text.



Year 6

Year 6 have covered a range of topics including clothes and fashion, describing their personalities and discussing their opinions of school topics and giving reasons.

J'aime danser

- J'adore chanter Je n'aime pas nager Je déteste étudier J'adore retrouver mes amis J'aime surfer Je n'aime pas tchatter Je déteste bloguer
- J'adore jouer.

It's finding my friends. Chat, laugh. I love my friends.

For me the return of the holidays. Is to Study. Work, listen to the teachers... It's sad.

For me, back to school is sport, the clubs at college: playing basketball, swimming. singing in choir... it's great.

Stanley Western



The Young

Wycliffian

Year 6 enjoyed a themed afternoon on Spanish culture during lockdown. They were treated to several activities including Flamenco workshops, Spanish tasters and mindfulness art.





European Day of Languages

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

The day gave 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.

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. Year 8

In German, pupils put their new knowledge of the German accusative case and physical descriptions to good use in order to write a description of the mythical Wolpertinger (a jackalope type creature said to live in the Bavarian forests) which are then added to their own artwork of the creature.

Ich habe das Tier ja mit meinen eigenen Augen gesehen! Es war gross. Es hat einen Hasenkopf. Es hat keinen Schwanz aber es hat graue Federn. Es hat Zwei scharfe Kraellen und zwei weiche Pfoten. Es hat Schwarze Augen. Es hat orange und schwarze Felle. Es hat ein grosses Geweih.

by Will Welby

In Spanish, pupils worked on describing their town and where they live using prepositions.

En frente del centro comercial, hay el cine. Hay la farmacia al lado de el banco. No hay el aeropuerto, pero hay el estadio de futból. Me gusta mucho el estadio de futból. A la izquierda de la estación RENFE, hay la oficina de información y turismo, et a la derecha de la estación RENFE, hay la oficina de correos. No hay el museo pero hay el zoo.

Ruby Dickenson

32 The Young Wycliffian

Mathematics



Isla Watson's shop

Place Value Riddle cards were used to challenge the more able mathematicians in the class with their place value skills. The questions incorporated lots of number skills and a range of Maths vocabulary. Once the more able children had got the hang of it, we turned it into a bit of a competition to see who could answer the most questions accurately, which the children really enjoyed. The less able pupils worked in small teams to help each other work out some answers too.

In Directed Learning pupils were all asked to run a virtual shop, buying items with set amounts of money and working out change.



Year 4 used Place Value Counters to explain how written column addition works. They pretended that they were presenters on their own Maths Kids YouTube channel and explained the method, using key mathematical vocabulary, to their viewers.

Pupils used their knowledge of reading and plotting co-ordinates to construct Christmas images on a grid.





During Directed Learning pupils took part in weekly competitions between tutor groups of Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS). The pupils challenged each other and the teachers as well. They have also played maths games, for example a virtual 'Around the World.' **Mr Sinclair** has challenged his group to solve some Bletchley Park codes.

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34 The Young Wycliffian

Music

We have never had a year like it – how many times have we said that? The Music Department has perhaps been one of the hardest hit during the pandemic as we have been so restricted in what we have been allowed to do. Did it stop us? Absolutely not! Things have definitely looked very different, but we have achieved a huge amount despite all the difficulties.

Every child from Reception to Year 8 continued to have specialist music teaching each week, including during lockdown, and our wonderful team of Visiting Music Teachers have continued to deliver music lessons either face to face or on Microsoft Teams. Our ensembles also had to adapt, with the Orchestra replaced by Year group ensembles, and Senior Choir and Middle Prep choirs also becoming Year group choirs. Although their schedule of performances has looked rather different this year, the Senior groups pre-recorded an anthem for Remembrance, and all the groups performed on the whole school Christmas Carol video.

The instrumental ensembles have produced recordings for some of our virtual concerts, and have had an opportunity to submit individual recordings for our virtual orchestra in the Spring term.





We had several successful virtual concerts in the Autumn and Spring terms, with performances from pupils of all ages and standards.

Carol Service

This year we were unable to have our usual Carol Services as planned, and so a whole College Christmas celebration was recorded in the Chapel. All the Prep Year group choirs performed pieces, and it was a new and exciting experience for most of them to be filmed professionally.

Music Exams

Music exams were especially

challenging, with all exam boards cancelling face-to-face exams in the Spring, and many centres closed in the Autumn and Summer terms. Despite this, we have had some successes with videoed exams and a few faceto-face exams in the Autumn, and we have also launched our own internal grade certificate, which Music staff can award to pupils meeting all the criteria for an exam, but who have been unable to take the formal exam.

Virtual Music making

The Music department was up and running within 24 hours of the second lockdown in January and we were able to deliver all our instrumental and vocal lessons remotely, and class music moved online. Music means so much to so many of our pupils and staff and plays a vital part in our mental well-being, as well as being such an important creative outlet for our school. **Mrs Taylor** would like to thank every pupil and teacher who helped to keep Music alive this year.

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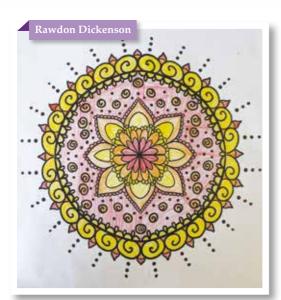
We had several successful virtual concerts in the Autumn and Spring terms, with performances from pupils of all ages and standards.

77



36 The Young Wycliffian

Religious Studies





Year 3 pupils explored the importance of books in a religious sense, as they learned about the **Guru Granth Sahib** (the holy book in the Sikh religion). They also learned about Hinduism.

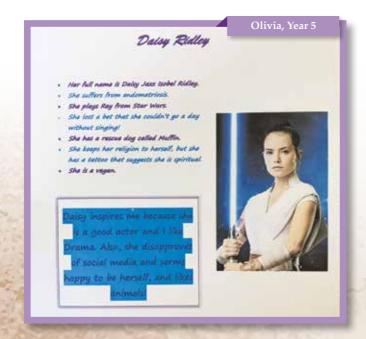


Year 4 learned about belonging and identity and how religious groups and schools and communities share a common identity.

What makes Wycliffe a community?

- 1. We always work together.
- 2. We share our ideas.
- 3. We are empathetic to each other.
- 4. We share our time together.
- 5. We share our feelings and triumphs and problems and failures and successes.
- 6. We share jokes, stories, music, poems and pictures.
- 7. We share happiness.

Martha Woolley, Year 4





Year 5 pupils studied a multi-religious unit on ' belief in our community' and how religious people look to people from their religion for inspiration.

The Young Wycliffian 2020/21



In Year 6 we studied what happens when we die and at the end of the term we researched famous people and the pupils wrote a small eulogy of their lives using quotes and reasons why we should remember them.

Winston Churchill is best remembered for successfully leading Britain through World War 2. He was famous for his inspiring speeches and for his refusal to give in, even when things were going badly.

Lottie Beachus, Year 6

Year 7

Year 7 studied Old Testament characters this year. Namely, **Elijah** recently and the worship of idols.

There are negatives and positives to having an idol, but that depends on what you are idolising. Many different people idolise lots of different things and this varies from between the newest iPhone or car all the way over to Barbie dolls, religion, money and people. All humans idolise something and that is what makes things popular or not. Idols in a lot of cases have grown with social media or benefitted from that and with this expansion comes an expansion in their own power with the following and liking and subscribing, making it easier to idolise people. Idols influence world affairs and control the people, for good or bad. Role models will use this power for good, whereas others might not.

Arthur McKay, Year 7

Over lockdown #2 | lost my Ji-ma [grandma]. She was very special to me and my family. I felt shocked at the time and extremely upset, but after I got used to the fact, like all things, I found ways to understand it. My Ji-ma was a heavy smoker, suffering from dementia and very lonely. I try to look on the positive side of the devastation, knowing that [like any big loss] there is nothing I could do afterwards anyway. A loss is loss. But then some say [not all] that people find their inner soul and wisdom when they die and if they were good to their God, they would go to heaven. My Ji-ma wasn't one you would call religious and in the conditions of India, when she had the heart attack, the options were tiny and she had to be cremated. I felt so, so sad, and empty, at the thought that we couldn't go to the cremation ceremony. Instead [it being lockdown] we watched the ceremony on Zoom. I was completely empty. And sad. Very sad. Still now, I have things that are really sentimental towards her, which is really nice.

Ayesha Menon, Year 6



Amelia Portlock is one of the RS Subject Leaders and one of the challenges posed by Mr Arman for this group was to enter the Theology Philosophy and Religion Essay Competition (ISRSA). This is part of Amelia's fine effort.

Meditation is well known as the best way to support your mental health and focussing your mind. However, prayer is just as good and it may even be more effective. There is really no right or wrong answer that fits all, it depends on your beliefs. You will think differently about how to sort out your problems. Both prayer and meditation can make you a better person and make you take a break from everyday life. Everyone needs time to relax every now and then, whether you are religious or not, it is good to let out your feelings.

Amelia Portlock, Year 8

Year 8 discussed the teachings of Jesus and how these might relate to our world today. The story of the Good Samaritan is one such parable. Oliver Thomas, Year S The man lay on the floor in the burning heat of the sun knocked out from his encounter with the bandits. A priest walked along the road and saw the man lying on the floor. He stopped, looked but kept on walking. Then came a Levite who was also walking along the road. He stopped, looked and kept on walking away into the distance.



Subject Leaders

The role of Subject Leader is designed to develop leadership, attainment and acknowledge pupil effort.

It is made up of the key strands:

The Young

Wycliffian

38

- High engagement and work ethic;
- be a good role model;
- high subject attainment;
- be prepared to share and present your ideas;
- work well with and encourage others;
- accept and rise to challenges given.

In this academic year we gave out 186 awards between 38 pupils across a range of subjects. 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. <section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

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.

by Eleanor Casey, Year 8

Extended challenges

by Eleanor Casey, Year 8

Subject Leaders are given a range of extended challenges throughout the year. This competition is just one example.

The CyberFirst Girls Competition is a computing challenge run by the National Cyber Security Centre for girls in Year 8 and Year 9.

The qualifying round was over a week in February, when our team spent every available moment completing challenges in topics including Cyber Security, Cryptography, Logic and others.



It is a huge compliment to reach the semifinals, which will be a fullday challenge for the team which

was made up of myself (Eleanor Casey), Ruby Dickenson, Isabel Carrick and Abigail Casey.

Geography





Pupils studied Rainforests and loved researching the animals, exploring the layers of the rainforest, finding out about people who live there (both tribes and people who live on the edges of the rainforest) and the problems of deforestation. The Rainforest

Austin Gray

NOO

Wow morning gave the children a chance to get creative - making dioramas of the rainforest, making a terrarium and baking with cocoa! We also linked the unit to our explorer day, creating a rainforest survival backpack.

> Year 5 pupils learned about wood, how and where it is produced and its uses.

Year 5

Franklin Carter

They also learned about the different forms of energy.

Year 3

The Young Wycliffian

39

Year 3 pupils learned how to use a variety of sources to identify human and physical features in a particular country.

Work by Jacob Luff

In the Spring term pupils learned about 'Our European Neighbours.' During their remote Expedition Day they used an online quiz 'European escape room' to explore parts of Europe. Later in the term they had expanded their knowledge to be able to identify major capital cities of Europe.

Work by Franklin Carter



Anoushka Reekie-Black

Academic: Geography



The Young Wycliffian

40

Pupils in Year 6 always enjoy learning about South America. Being able to use their computers every week to find out about this continent has made it an exciting learning experience. Some of the pupils were even brave enough to sing the South America and capitals song to the rest of the class, a very catchy song!

Year 6 compared old and new maps of the Ebley area to identify differences in land use and then checked them for up-to-date information on Google Maps.



Pupils conducted a microclimate investigation around the School to see how various factors, including aspect and amount of vegetation, affected the microclimate in 5 different locations. We did this by measuring things like humidity and temperature.



Year 8

Pupils studied the impact of flooding in Bangladesh.

Year 8 created newspaper reports about the Boscastle flooding.

Science



I'll huff and puff and get this vehicle to move! Pupils learned how machines work by harnessing the powers of wind, water, and solar energy. Key skills they will also develop are following instructions and working as a team. They put those skills to the test with the K'NEX vehicles they created.

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about skeletons within their Science topic, Animals Including Humans. **Harry** was inspired by our work and was able to make use of his 'squishy human body' from home!





The Forensic Science workshop brought Science to life and allowed pupils to practise skills such as observing, exploring and asking questions. By investigating a 'crime' committed, the year group had to work together to piece the evidence together and discover the culprit.



Bright sparks! Year 4 pupils experimented with circuits.



Year 5

We 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.

Olivia

42 The Young Wycliffian

Academic: Science







During Year 6's Robotics Day pupils worked in teams of three to build a robotic vehicle using LEGO Mindstorms. They then programmed their robots to complete a series of increasingly difficult challenges. Pupils learnt where computers are used and saw how essential computer control has become part of our lives.

Year 5 continued

Year 5 explored signs of change in their materials unit. They heated a mysterious liquid.

"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!"

Harry Vicary







Science never proved so sweet for pupils when they made cells out of sweets. They carefully laid out the cell structure and labelled each element.

Then it was to the other end of the scale! To explore environmental alternatives to mass-produced meat, Year 7 tried some flavoured crickets in our science lesson today. They all seemed to really enjoy them!





Extra-Curricular

BAMOR TRANSPORTAL BIG 188081

JA-S

Activities

Our Thursday afternoon activities programme at the Prep School has looked a little different this year as Year groups have not been allowed to mix in the usual manner.

However, in true Wycliffe fashion, we have endeavoured not to let this stop us from enjoying a wide range of extra-curricular activities!

The Autumn term saw the return of some of our all-time favourites from Fencing and Squash, to felt sewing and chess. Year 3 and 4 really enjoyed getting a taste of Fencing, for many of which was their first time.

Like the rest of our learning,

another national lockdown meant that our Spring term activity programme had to take to Microsoft Teams. The children were given the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities including Yoga, Art in Nature and Capoeira (a Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, and music).

The Summer term also saw the introduction of Philosophy, Fun with Words and Historical Headlines, which most of our Year 7s and 8s got to experience as well as ceramics, Geometric Animal Art and Racket Rounders. Year 5 and 6 were able to enjoy Dance, Yoga and Scrabble.

Despite the challenges faced this year, our activities programme has delivered a variety of fun learning experiences for our pupils in Middle and Upper Prep, providing opportunities to develop new hobbies and skills along the way.



44 The Young Wycliffian

Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all Pre-Prep children regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment with trees.

Forest School aims to foster a relationship with nature through regular personal experiences in order to develop long-term environmentally sustainable attitudes and practices in staff, learners and the wider community.

It aims to promote holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

Children have the opportunity during Forest School sessions to follow their own lines of enquiry and exploration, take part in planned activities provided by the Forest School leader if they wish to and take risks within an area that has been assessed as being as safe as is reasonable.

Nursery children have learnt basic rules of Forest School to keep themselves and others safe and activities that have been available for Nursery children have included making shelters and dens for themselves and mini dens for small world animals and figures, playing safely with sticks, using them in imaginative ways and identifying trees and plants.

Reception and Years 1 and 2 children have also enjoyed a range of activities. They painted the trees with chalk and water, listened to birds, found minibeasts, watched squirrels and even discovered a hedgehog and created lots of 'culinary delights' in the mud kitchen.

One of the favourite activities for all the children is drinking hot chocolate and listening to stories.

66

It aims to promote holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

77



Extra-Curricular

Wellbeing

By Mrs Curtis

The Wellbeing of our pupils is always at the heart of everything the staff do at Wycliffe, and this year saw the opportunity to deliver the Wellbeing in Schools programme across the whole of the Prep School.

For all age groups the sessions follow a similar format: Introducing and reinforcing brain theory, breathing techniques, some themed yoga and ending with, often the children's favourite part, a themed guided meditation.

For Years 3-8 their sessions have been on a rotation during their scheduled Life Skills lessons. In September we started with Managing Worries and discussed the transition back into School after a long Summer break and the long period of Remote Learning prior to that. During the Remote Learning post-Christmas we were able to continue online in a slightly adapted way discussing our Wellbeing during Lockdown. This was also reinforced by a series of assemblies across the school as part of Children's Mental Health Week. For the Summer term, the theme of the sessions have been transition

"Moving Up" or "Moving On"; how we can help our monkeys (our amygdalas) to manage all our feelings that come with this.

For Pre-Prep, the children have benefited from more frequent sessions, on a fortnightly rotation between Reception and Year 1-2. We have covered Back to School, feelings, and lots of seasonal and themed sessions such as Christmas and Spring. We even managed some yoga outside in the nicer weather. The children have engaged and have shown fantastic understanding of Monkey, Elephant and Owl.

It has been so much fun this year getting to know and teaching children across the whole school. I look forward to the next year and continuing the Wellbeing journey with our existing and new pupils!

In May, Years 3, 4 and 5 took a break from their regular lessons to embark upon a morning of mindfulness! The theme was 'Nature' and the children took part in a variety of sessions, such as yoga, meditation, nature photography, chamomile tea drinking and nature art.

Here is what they had to say about it:

"The yoga was great because you could stretch your body and it gave you a nice feeling. I can use the moves at home too!" **Lewis Sandison**, Year 3.

"I liked the tea-drinking session because it was calming," **Lumi Robertson**, Year 3. "I loved the nature art. We made an owl out of sticks, leaves seeds and bark." Tom Hanson, Year 4.

"The photography was really interesting because we could capture nature up close!" <u>Matilda Lane</u>, Year 4.





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Sports Day

Sports Day 2021 will be remembered for effort levels and House spirit, as small numbers from each House came together to compete in every event with little rest in between.

Houses in each year group were represented by no more than two per House which meant everyone did everything. This wasn't going to stop the exceptional times and distances as a number of records came under threat from a determined Year 7 group who will get another shot at breaking records next year.

Year 3 and 4 boasted good numbers, Alistair Spurr and Archie Gidman went head to head in virtually every event, the girls' events were incredibly close with honours spread amongst Martha Woolley, Darcy Poole, Evie Westwater and Sophie Gaskell.

Year 5 were determined to do their bit as well with **Albie James**,

Will Papps, Tobias Corbin and Rowan Cooper pushing each other to throw further, run faster and jump higher with every passing event.

Year 7 saw Archie and Harry Larkman dominate the longer distances with Ruby Corbin and Jemima Tapping competing for major honours in the girls' events.

It was great to see so many pupils pushing each other to get better whilst congratulating them at the end of the event. For the first time the Prep Sports Day High Jump was completed on the day and this proved to be a favourite and will most certainly take centre stage next Summer.

A huge thanks to the Heads of Houses who were changing



their teams by the hour, the grounds staff who set up and organised safe environments for the children to compete and the staff who helped out on the day ensuring it all ran smoothly. Extra-Curricular

The Wave

Instead of the traditional Year 8 Sports Trip to the Olympic Park, pupils enjoyed a thrilling day at The Wave in Bristol where they put their surfing skills to the test.

The new pool with wave machine caters for surfers of all abilities, which certainly ticked the box for our Year 8s. Surfer of the day goes to **Charlie Ashman**, who admittedly surfs most days in the Summer when he returns home to Sri Lanka.

Pupils took turns under the guidance of the trained instructors to surf the smaller waves closer to the shore whilst the more advanced surfers tackled the 6ft waves further out. Pupils revelled in the comradery of helping each other attempt to stand up and surf the wave in.



The Young Wycliffian 47



Pre-Prep Sports Day

Every child from Nursery to Year 2 took part in the Pre-Prep Sports Day.

What made it more special was that it was the first event this

academic year parents were allowed to attend. There was a great deal of cheering and laughing as children enjoyed sprint races, throwing events and obstacle races - all in glorious sunshine.

The event ended with the whole Pre-Prep - including staff - taking part in a relay race.



Extra-Curricular

Sports

coming to the Senior School next year and learning under the guidance of **Mrs Usher**, who will also work with the lower school alongside Netball specialist **Mrs Bolderson**.

Cricket

The girls are developing a good understanding of the game and training well, learning new skills and putting them in to practice in our matches. The boys continue to develop well with competitive flexible squads that rotate on a weekly basis to give pupils the chance to show their capabilities.

Roll of Honour

Harry and Archie Larkman's cricket continues to improve with them now representing South Gloucestershire.

Millie Downey, an ever present member in the Boys' 1st XI this summer, plays for Gloucestershire Girls.

Lottie Beachus was selected to represent South England in their next Mounted Games series.









48 The Young Wycliffian

Rugby

Players concentrated on their handling

Coaches kept ideas fresh and challenging

skills and understanding of the game.

with inter squad games at the end of each skill block to test out what had been

worked on over the previous weeks.

Hockey

Year 3 to 8 enjoyed weekly use of the

Football

three weeks. Boys and girls enjoyed getting back on the pitches. The 1st XI

against Tockington Manor School.

Netball

The Netball term was cut down to just

three weeks. The girls took this in their

stride and enjoyed training sessions, even

roping in a few boys to take part in their training. The Year 8s will look forward to

The Football term was cut down to just

managed to get one game, winning 5-4

Senior School Astro, practising their new

skills and game scenarios on a larger pitch.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Eco Week

All Year groups at Prep took part in the annual Eco Week and enjoyed a range of activities.

The focus for this year's event was to foster an appreciation of local species.

"Most children know about tigers and pandas, but can they identify a stoat or sycamore tree?" said **Mr Holroyde**. "If they understand more about local nature, they are more likely to want to protect it."

Pupils used the Woodland Trust app to identify trees in the school grounds plus any invertebrates on them, did a nature trail quiz as well as growing cress heads, planting wildflowers, making bird feeders, canal dipping, installing bug hotels and tidying up the flowers beds.

Year 3 got up close and personal with African land snails and enjoyed canal dipping. Year 4 explored flower beds and Year 6 made bird feeders.

In Year 7 English, pupils designed and promoted their own holiday parks, based on the book they have been reading. **Flo Smalley** and **Chloe Newton** put a great eco-spin on theirs, by including beehives, wind power, a wildflower meadow and a lake full of cornfed ducks. Similarly, **Max Meenan** and **Sam Hart** designed an eco-island as part of their park - you can reach this by sailing on rafts made from recycled plastic bottles.

The Young Wycliffian 49

Pupils' comments:

"I loved the pond dipping. It was really fun to find out new creatures."

"The Nature Quiz was amazing and I spent the whole time running around learning about different animals."

"The week has been really cool and it has been a rollercoaster of adventure."









Learning Beyond the Classroom



Expedition Days

Expedition Days play an important part of life at the Prep. It enables pupils to get to know each other outside the classroom, learn to work together and push themselves beyond their comfort zones.

In the Autumn term, Years 3 and 4 explored Woodchester Park as their Expedition Day, while Year 5 visited Copsegrove Farm Forest School for a day of exploring and completing a range of tasks and activities. Year 6 journeyed to Selsley Common, whilst Year 7 did a Drama Day in preparation for their production of 'Moana'.

50

The Young Wycliffian

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.

In the Spring term, due to lockdown, children enjoyed a virtual expedition day. The day included the opportunity for the pupils to undertake explorer escape room quizzes, visit virtual tours of interesting places around the globe, and enjoy a fascinating talk with **Paul Braithwaite**, an Everest Explorer who climbed to the summit.

In the Summer term Year 3 went to Slimbridge, Year 4 went on a canal walk, and Year 5 walked to Selsley Common and back. During the same week, Year 6 had a fantastic residential sailing trip to South Cerney, Year 7 held a drama week to rehearse and fine tune their performance of 'Moana', and Year 8 had an exhilarating week in the Brecon Beacons, undertaking a range of activities such as mountain biking, high ropes and gorge walking.







Year 3

Science Week

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

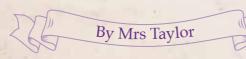
They included discussing the digestive and respiratory systems of birds (Year 8), the classification of slow worms (Year 7) and the skeletal and muscular systems of birds (Year 3). Mr Holroyde said: "Dave, who is a falconry expert and specialises in exotic animals, visited Wycliffe as part of our celebration 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."

The Young Wycliffian 51



52 The Young Wycliffian

Wycliffe Music Festival



The last time the whole school was together was our Music Competition in March 2020. That seemed an incredibly long time ago, and we had been hoping that it might be the turning point for us in 2021.

Unfortunately, it was just not possible to hold a live Music Competition this year, and so instead we held a Virtual Music Festival!

Every child in the school had the opportunity to get involved in some way, whether it was submitting a performance recording, creating some Art inspired by Music, making their own instrument, writing song lyrics, entering a music quiz with clues around the school, or even composing a piece of Music.

The Music staff also got involved, submitting their own performances for an inspiring Visiting Music Teacher (VMT) concert.

The result was well over two and a half hours of Music – a Middle Prep concert, an Upper Prep concert and the VMT concert. More than 50 pupils submitted



recordings, and we had a wonderful display in the entrance to the Studio Theatre of all the artwork and created instruments.

Despite the restrictions, we were able to come together as a school and celebrate our wonderful music making!

Our first ever Literature Festival

Children turned book sleuths when they solved clues on a book trail during the first ever Wycliffe Literature Festival.

The festival was the brainchild of **Mrs Muszasty** and involved every child from Nursery to Year 8.

There were author talks, a book trail where children looked for 15 creative installations to work out the book or story they represented and an outdoor 'story shack' where pupils were entertained with some live storytelling.

Every pupil from Year 1 to Year 8 finished their day with a sponsored 'readathon' to raise money for The James Hopkins Trust, the school's chosen charity of the year.



World Book Day

Pupils and staff embraced the opportunity to celebrate World Book Day (online) in true Wycliffe spirit, wearing spectacular costumes and designing bookthemed 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!

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.







Grenfell House

By Mrs Seyburn

What an amazing year for Grenfell and particularly our Year 8 pupils. As part of his Kirby Challenge, **Charlie Ashman** organised an interview with **Kumar Sangakkara** (professional cricketer in Sri Lanka and Head of the MCC).

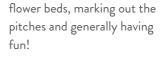
As part of his challenge and following on from this interview, Charlie then organised a fun event for Year 8s: a barefoot cricket match. He explained to us that this form of playing equalised the environment to match how children played cricket in Sri Lanka.

The format of the match was organised in alphabetical name order and there was a good mix of teams (Grenfell, Shaftesbury, Lincoln and Scott all enjoying playing with their rivals). The whole point of the exercise was to raise awareness of a charity in Sri Lanka called The Foundation of Goodness.

Other memorable events include:

- Careers morning on Zoom

 a highlight and everyone enjoyed hearing experiences with some being former
 Wycliffe pupils.
- Expedition Day Ground Force Day stands out as working with the Estates team, Year 8s spruced up the Prep School site working on



- 'Jerusalema' A whole school dance off (held on the Astro). Grenfell were winners!
- The Duck Race chasing the duck – we know how to have fun at the Prep! Again, Grenfell were winners!
- Everyone enjoyed visiting the Senior School on a Saturday morning – playing Cricket, Netball and Hockey.

Proud moments:

- Amelia Portlock being awarded Head Girl, term 1;
- Lucy Bond being awarded Head Girl term 3;
- Talia Owen taking part in a 10km run and a 32km bike ride back to back.

Well done to our Year 8s. It is has been a year of many challenges but our core values served us well: demonstrating resilience, taking responsibility, showing respect for others and empathy, everyone completed their own personal challenge.



Community

The Young Wycliffian 2020/21 55

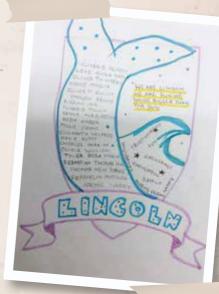


by Mrs Gidman

Why Lincoln is great!

By Millie Gidman and Senna Loftus, Year 6

- L ovely Lincoln, leading from the front earning lots of house points I ncredible entries into house competitions N oble and notorious – very respectful
- ${\boldsymbol{\mathsf{C}}}$ onfident, competitive and collaborative we always work together
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{O}}$ utstanding and amazing effort in everything we do
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{L}}$ ively loving life
- N ot negative positive attitudes help us achieve





66

As a part of Lincoln, I believe (but also know) that it is the best house! I have been in Lincoln since Year 3 and now I am Year 8 and house captain. Lincoln are the best because we are very competitive and try to win sports day every year. I am proud of Lincoln and can't wait to smash it again.

Harry Hursthouse, Year 8

Scott House

By Mrs Hanson

Community

Scott has had a tremendous year showing resilience and empathy as we had to adapt to the constant changing circumstances.

House competitions have changed in format this year, but we had some outstanding entries from **Noma McBurney** who captured the essence of Scott in her updated Scott shield and from **Teyo McBurnley** in his piece of Autumn Literature.

The Young Wycliffian

56

Other Scotties threw themselves into the optional competitions including **Darcy Poole** when designing a Hallowe'en costume, taking many photographs (so many I can't credit all of you!) and baking, I wish I could have tasted them **Phoebe Smith**!

The entries for the House Song were outstanding for those who entered, and they really made me smile with their ingenious lyrics, positivity and notes of hope for the year. At times we have been able to celebrate together outside, and one of my personal highlights was to watch the House come together and learn a new dance the 'Jerusalema' as well as support each other in the duck race, with the help of our outstanding Year 8 leaders.

During our period of Directed Learning, Scott Bear enjoyed hiding in various parts of the school to keep you guessing and it was great to catch up and

"I liked dancing in the houses." **Evie Westwater**

"I liked it when we could all come back together and be Scott again!" **Darcy Poole** celebrate the many achievements we experienced whilst at home.

It has been a pleasure to see you all support each other in different formats again and be so adaptable, you really have encapsulated everything we hold dear in Scott House.

As many of you said we are family through tough times and the good, and we have all grown together to achieve in all areas of school life. I can't wait to build upon this again next year!

"I enjoyed the Scott riddles." **Scarlet Tilsley**

"My favourite bit of online assemblies was to guess: Where is Scott Bear?" **Laurence Wiliams** Community

Shaftesbury House

Even though it has been an interesting year due to the restrictions and the lack of time to meet together and talk about how to make Shaftesbury the Number One House, we still have managed to do well in all the House competitions, as we normally do!

Many of the pupils worked tirelessly by scoring points and working hard to collect recommendations. I can't thank them enough.

If we have an identity as a House besides being the Red House,

then it is important that we try our best and never give up. Winning and being top of the tree is important too, we all like to be the best.

But as my dad once said to me "if we give our best then we have done enough" and if anything that would be a great motto for our House. We gave our best and tried our hardest. Go Shaftesbury! Let's look to a new year with excitement and the hope of maintaining our top status.

Why I love Shaftesbury House....

"Even though it's been a difficult year Shaftesbury has still remained a family of good friends."

"I love being in Shaftesbury because we are all very open to listening to each other and willing to take the time to help

one another."

"Red is the best colour because it means passion and danger because we have passion for our House and there is always danger if you ever challenge Shaftesbury. It also stands for stop and we stop all our rivals!" "Lord Shaftesbury, who our House is named after, helped change laws so that children could go to school and not work down mines or in factories during the Victorian period, so we are happy to be named after someone who gave us these great opportunities."



Community



58 The Young Wycliffian





Boarding By Mr Gloster

What a fantastic year it's been for Wycliffe boarders! Over the course of the year, we've welcomed 15 new full boarders into the boarding Houses and are thrilled to be allowed to have our flexis back joining us again.

Many of the highlights in the boarding calendar include the trips and activities that take place both across the week and during the weekends. Although we had to put our external trips temporarily on hold, the staff took the opportunity to get creative, bring activities to us and to explore the fantastic local area around Wycliffe. Some of our favourite activities have included crazy golf, an inflatable party in the Covered Playground, hide and seek up Doverow Hill, film nights in Pennwood Cave, skeleton man making, wellbeing Wednesdays and make your own breakfast pizzas.

Towards the end of the Summer

term, the boarders ventured off site again, with an outstanding trip to Cotswold Country Park and Beach where they swam, splashed and slipped their way across an inflatable obstacle course.

It has also been wonderful to see the boarders making the most of the sunshine the Summer term





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We've also undertaken lots of projects and innovations to the Boarding Houses and facilities over the year.

"

has offered and enjoying free time and the many wonderful spaces here at school.

We've also undertaken lots of projects and innovations to the Boarding Houses and facilities over the year. We've created a reading cave, developed a boarders' garden, transformed an outdoor space into a multipurpose area including an outdoor cinema and mini football pitch, redeveloped the Year 8 Common Room and turned our PE hall into a space where we have house meals, meetings and activities. We've also bought a projector, fabulous barbecue and new pizza oven which we've been making full use of in the beautiful weather.

The Young Wycliffian 59

Another initiative that we are proud of is our new relationship with a new military charity, Head





Up. During the last weekend of the year, we did a sponsored walk in order to raise funds for veterans. We are proud to be promoting community links with our boarders and supporting a charity connected to many of our boarders' families.

Finally, during the year we said goodbye to the fabulous **Mrs Odiz** and welcomed **Miss Oliver** as Housemistress of Windrush. **Miss Oliver** had an instant impact in Windrush, and her energy and enthusiasm was a fantastic addition to the House.

Though the year had ups and downs we, as a boarding family, have all grown together and learned many life lessons along the way.

66

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Global Citizens



Kirby Challenge

This year's Kirby Challenge has been a tough one for Year 8. The pandemic has meant that their contribution to school life was limited to what they could do from home.

Before lockdown however, Year 8 made a great contribution to their school environment by weeding flower beds, marking the pitches and planting flowers and trees.

Amelia Portlock and Millie Newman raised more than £1,200 to buy gifts for people affected by cancer, pensioners, the homeless and families in crisis. They also wrote 120 letters to go with the gifts.

During lockdown pupils came up

with innovative ways of making a contribution. Some cooked meals for their family, others walked and cycled, some wrote cards and made presents for the residents of care homes.

On return to school in January Year 8 made up for lost time. They've made a wonderful contribution to their community by tidying local church grounds and improving the look of the sensory garden in school.

The Young

Wycliffian

61

"I'm very proud of the way they have adapted challenges to meet a very unique set of circumstances and this Year 8 group will receive a very special set of awards, having shown responsibility, resilience, respect for their community and great empathy towards others," said **Mr Guest**.



"

I'm very proud of the way they have adapted challenges to meet a very unique set of circumstances and this Year 8 group will receive a very special set of awards





Global Citizens

Service

Service and contribution to the Prep School and the wider community has been really challenging this year.

Year 8 made a brilliant start to the year making a wonderful contribution to school life with a groundworks day in school, tidying the school site, planting trees and flowers and helping the grounds staff mark lines on the school pitches.

62 The Young Wycliffian

> Year 8 pupils completed another groundworks day in June tidying the Sensory Garden and again supporting the local community by cleaning ivy and weeds in local churchyards.

> On 12 October each pupil from Years 3 and 4 joined the Eliud's Mile Challenge to mark the first anniversary of **Eliud Kipchoge** breaking the marathon World Record and becoming the first person to run a marathon in under two hours, one hour, 59

minutes and 40 seconds to be exact. Wycliffe pupils can proudly say they pledged 34 miles to a worldwide challenge.

Year 1 pupil **Grace Kennedy** raised over £200 for The Bristol Children's Hospital Charity, The Grand Appeal. Alongside her family at home, Grace ran over two miles.

Pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 made Christmas cards and wrote messages for every resident in the Oldbury House care home to acknowledge how hard the year had been for them.

Year 7 pupil **Molly May Gibbons**, along with her sister **Lily** (Year 10) rescued a woman who was having difficulties in the sea off the Isle of Wight. With their father's help they freed the woman, put her on their surfboards and brought her back to shore. Then they flagged down a passing police officer and the woman was taken to hospital.



Eliud's Mile

In 2019, on 12 October **Eliud Kipchoge** broke the marathon World Record and became the first person to run a marathon in under two hours, one hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds to be exact. 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 Wycliffe pupil from Years 3 and 4 showed great effort and responsibility spending their games afternoon clocking up individual miles on the AstroTurf and the playing fields. It was great to see everyone encouraging their friends on the way round as they all chased the one-mile distance. Wycliffe pupil's showed brilliant resilience not stopping until they had done their bit for the challenge. Once finished, plenty headed back out to cheer on their friends.

It was great to see so many pupils channelling the same sheer determination Eliud showed to get their distance completed as fast as they could. Wycliffe pupils can proudly say they pledged 34 miles to a worldwide challenge.























Write your own story...



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