



# The Wycliffe Times

## Wycliffe takes Manhattan!



by Nomonde Daniels (Year 13), Madeline (Maddy) Small and Jenrola Oyewumi (both Year 12)

On Friday 21st November, 36 Art, Music and Drama pupils and six members of staff made their way to New York City for four jam-packed days of culture and sight-seeing.

Following an early start and a long journey, we arrived at our hotel in Times Square, and, after a quick turnaround, headed out to take in the sights, sounds and smells of New York. We finished the night at Ellen's Stardust Diner, with its singing waiters and Broadway classics galore!

Each morning started early with an amazing private breakfast buffet at The Hard Rock Café. On Saturday, we explored Midtown, taking in the main sights on a walking tour and a tour of the famous Radio City music hall where we met one of the famous Rockettes. In the afternoon we headed to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) to see work by Van Gogh, Picasso and Lichtenstein, before dinner at Bubba Gump's restaurant and an incredible evening performance of *The Lion King* on Broadway.

Later, we made our way up the Rockefeller Centre (Top of the Rocks) to see the famous New York skyline at night.

On the last day, we wandered through Central Park on route to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Following lunch from traditional New York food carts, most of us hit Fifth Avenue for some last-minute shopping whilst a few headed to The Guggenheim.

We all want to say a massive thank you to **Ms Evans** for organising an incredible trip that none of us will ever forget!



## Introducing the Wycliffe Discovery Programme

Today, more than ever, we live in a global community. To thrive in this ever-changing interconnected world, pupils must have the confidence to step outside of their comfort zone, try new things, their pioneering spirit and embrace unfamiliar ideas.

Indeed, it is often when we are being exposed to challenges and new experiences that we learn most about ourselves, flourish as individuals and our place in the world. During the Prep years in particular, pupils are primed to learn and adapt, and they respond particularly well to first-hand experiences.

Therefore, after a period of careful review, our Saturday School programme has been re-launched as the Wycliffe Discovery Programme. This newly created programme has been designed to build skills of communication, problem solving, collaboration and leadership,

through a series of carefully structured units across the year.

So far this term, Year 8 pupils have completed a three-week Kintsugi Art and Philosophy unit. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with a gold-dusted lacquer, centred around a philosophy that celebrates imperfections. They have also learnt about the principles of flight, with **Mrs Cleere** arranging for a fully operational glider to be brought onto campus, and have worked alongside MOD engineers who shared their experiences in the field of aviation.

Meanwhile, **Mrs Patten** led our Year 7 pupils in a simulation of the UN General Assembly – the Model United Nations - where young people work as representatives of a country, debating and solving global problems while learning about diplomacy and international relations.

Year 6 were set an entrepreneurship challenge to 'make £5 grow'. Each 'start-up' was tasked with the goal of making £5 grow to benefit our School charity, learning skills of marketing and budgeting along the way. This five-week series teaches pupils the value of a growth-mindset, where they must learn from failure and develop grit and resilience to achieve their goal.

The pupil body at Wycliffe has a thirst for adventure and an intellectual curiosity and, as you can see, the Discovery Programme aims to build on this, stretching and challenging pupils, allowing them to engage with new concepts and develop the skills they will need to be fully rounded global citizens of the future.

We always welcome contributions from our parent community, so please do reach out if you would like to learn more about how you can be involved with the Wycliffe Discovery Programme.

# European Day of Languages

On 26th September, Wycliffe celebrated the European Day of Languages.

The Senior School marked this with an inter-House competition in which pupils were invited to create a poster, video, artefact or poem that represented the languages spoken within their House.

Entries were very creative and wide-ranging, with a special mention going to Ivy Grove for their film of pupils performing a sketch in many different languages. The deserving winners, however, were Loosley Halls with their incredibly original and innovative entry: an interactive map of songs. The songs represented each of the languages spoken by Loosley pupils and were accompanied by codes which, when scanned, played each song on Spotify!

Over in the Prep School, pupils welcomed **Steve Eadon** from Mingalaba who spoke to Years 7 and 8 about the job opportunities given to those who speak foreign languages.

Steve spoke about his journey from a reluctant learner of German at school to working for Arsenal Football Club. Steve went to university to study German and Spanish,



spending time in Germany and Spain while doing his degree. This experience gave him that extra 'edge' that Arsenal was looking for and he was selected to coach for the club in Kenya and the Caribbean.

During his time at the club, he also used his skills to promote languages whilst working with famous football players.

Pupils were able to ask him about his career at the club and spent the morning working with him on different activities.

## English Is Not Enough

On Wednesday 9th November, the MFL Department ran its annual English Is Not Enough event. The event's mission is to enthuse our Year 9 pupils about the wonderful possibilities that learning languages can deliver.

**Mr Lester** started things off in Chapel, highlighting the ongoing need to engage with languages across the world, despite the role of English. We then had presentations from **Mr Pete Roberts** from Médecins Sans Frontières, **Mr David Binns** from Sanako, and **Mr Viv Menon**, who explained how languages have been essential to his 22 years in the wine trade.

## MFL Enrichment Talks inspire

On Monday 17th October, Year 11 and Development Year pupils enjoyed a series of enrichment talks courtesy of the Modern Foreign Languages Department. The speakers included **Eva Tunez Salvador** and **Janina Neumann** from The Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL); **David Binns**, Director of UK Operations at SANAKO Digital Language Systems; and The Wycliffian Society's own **Sara Smalley**.

**Charlie Hart** (Year 11) said of the day, "I thought that the talks about how languages can be beneficial to our adult lives were extremely eye opening and informative. We learned about the presenters' journeys with languages and how languages have helped them in fields from translation, corporate business, and even working in the military and travelling. We learned about how even basic linguistic skills can hugely increase your employability and open various doors throughout your life that you would not be able to experience without languages."

## Charlie Walker motivates

On Monday 23rd November, we were fortunate to have explorer and travel writer **Charlie Walker** visit the School. He delivered a number of talks about his 48,000-mile bike ride, speaking to the Sixth Form in Life Skills, then to the Lower School, and finally to an audience of OWs and parents.

During his epic four-and-a-half-year adventure, during which he encountered extremes of weather, remoteness and physical exhaustion, Charlie traversed 60 countries and reached the furthest cape in each of Europe, Asia and Africa before returning home. His presentations were engaging and personal, with humorous anecdotes and insightful commentary on the places he has visited.

Thank you to PASS for funding this inspiring presentation.



# Year 3 pupils learn all about Diwali



A faraway kingdom long, long ago; noble princes and a strong, beautiful princess; a wicked stepmother; exile in an enchanted forest; an evil ten-headed demon; a super-powered flying monkey; trials and tribulations; bitter struggles; epic battles; and the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil... what's not to love about the epic poem The Ramayana and the festival that is based on it: Diwali!

Every year, over a billion people in India and around the world – Hindus, Jains and Sikhs – celebrate Diwali with family and friends, exchanging gifts, eating special food, enjoying fireworks and decorating their houses with traditional lamps – dewas – and beautiful Rangoli designs to welcome the goddess Lakshmi.

This term, Year 3 had a very special morning where they learned all about the festival of Diwali. They heard the story of Rama and Sita and learned how Hindus celebrate during the festival period. Year 3 pupil **Rivan** is a practising Hindu, and his mum (who works at the Senior School!) paid us a visit during the morning to answer any questions the children had. She also provided us with Indian sweets and snacks, dewas, traditional outfits and jewellery to try on, along with other items for the children to explore. Activities included dressing up in shawls, saris and shalwar kameez; acting out the story of Rama and Sita with puppets; designing Rangoli patterns; and a quiz.

It was a colourful and exciting morning and **Mr Broadhead** and **Miss Lewis** would like to thank **Mrs Knight** for her wonderful contributions.

# Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

This new scheme of phonics was introduced in 2021 and is now embedded within the Pre-Prep academic timetable. Children continue to be assessed on their phonetic knowledge each term and grouped with children of similar abilities across the department. Daily lessons consist of speed sound recognition, spelling and reading

or comprehension tasks. Once again, a Read, Write, Inc. Parents Information Evening was held in September of this year in the school's Studio Theatre. Parents joined us here at school to learn more about the scheme and take part in their own phonics lesson taught by their child's class teacher.

# National Poetry Day

Inspired by Robert MacFarlane's *Lost and Found*, Year 6 pupils marked National Poetry Day on 6th October by producing a beautiful book of kennings - a compressed form of metaphor, originally used in Anglo-Saxon and Norse poetry.

Year 7 pupils wrote poems inspired by **Michael Rosen's** *No Breathing in Class*, including *Blinking Drama* by **Lula Turner**.

## Blinking Drama (an extract)

by Lula Turner (Year 7)

We had a drama teacher, who was so strict, you weren't allowed to blink in her lessons. She used to stand at the front shouting "No Blinking!" And you had the whole third and fourth period to get through. The pathetic ones used to drop down onto their knees after two minutes, you'd hear them dropping down behind you, like bowling pins.

PLONK! PLONK! PLONK!

And there was always that one wailing kid going, "Miss can I go backstage and do some blinking!"

"No! This is Performing Arts, not a blinking subject,"

"Oh, come on Miss, oh come on!"

Did you know, at the start of the week there were 36 kids in my class by the end there were only four left. Yeah, you'd be tripping over your feet to get out of the theatre. Oh no, there's Jess. Shame, she was really nice. There's Barry. Bad luck Barry. Always knew you were a bit weak.

You know people say to me, "If this is true, how come you're here to tell the tale?"

Fair Enough. I'll tell you. It's because some of us are clever enough to Wear sunglasses in drama, which meant she couldn't see your eyes.

So once more from the beginning,

"No Blinking!"

The pathetic ones,

PLONK! PLONK! PLONK!

The wailing one, "Miss can I go backstage and blink?"



## Otter

Den-steeler  
Back-floater  
Breath-holder  
Speedy-swimmer  
River-lover  
Fish-devourer  
Clam-smasher  
Woodland-ruler  
Group-swimmer



## Prep School pupils inspired at Cheltenham Literature Festival

Pupils from across the Prep School enjoyed a number of workshops and informative talks at this year's Cheltenham Literature Festival.

Reception children took part in a workshop session with author **Naomi Jones** and illustrator **Jack Jones** around their shape story *One More Try*, whilst children in Years 1 and 2 met with author **Nick Sharratt** and learnt about his new books *Super Silly Museums* and *Unicorn Moonicorn*.

**Louie Stowell** entertained the Year 5 pupils with tales of Loki, the 11 year old banished to live on earth as a normal school pupil, and Year 6 went to a workshop led by musician, rapper, writer and performance poet **Karl Nova**; he performed slam poetry, read passages from his award-winning books and talked about his love of language, his inspirations and his reasons for writing.

Year 7 learnt about 'fake news' in the media during an engaging session with the editorial team of *Newsweek Junior*, whilst Year 8 pupils enjoyed an engaging and inspiring session on gothic fiction with the author **Lucy Strange**, tying in perfectly with their current unit of work.



## Adventure calls!

by Mrs Grant

Living our vision is what I ask of our pupils every day - through their lessons, activities and interactions and so, in February this year, I decided to do something which would take some self-discipline in training and be a challenge. October half term presented the perfect opportunity, and so six of us headed to Nepal and hiked up to Annapurna Base Camp (4130m). A parent had said to me that I would go for the mountains and walk but come back humbled by the people - and he was spot on! Seeking the next challenge is on... Patagonia? Iceland? Any ideas, parents?



# Year 13 pupils in their element in Chemistry Challenge

Year 13 Chemistry pupils recently took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge; run by Cambridge University, the challenge involves over 8,000 entrants from more than 500 schools.

The pupils were faced with a 90-minute written paper that went significantly beyond the A Level syllabus and

encouraged them to think about Chemistry in the same way as they would at university.

All of them did exceptionally well, with **Wan Ying (Candice) Cheung** (Lampeter), **Nero Harms** (Robinson), **Emilín Isgin Navarro** (Lampeter), **Lucy McKerrow** (Lampeter), **Oliver Moores** (Robinson), **Naomi Opaleye** (Collingwood),

**Tin Ching (Ryan) Tang** (Robinson) all earning Copper certificates.

A special mention goes to **Orla Wright** (Haywardsend), who was awarded a Silver certificate, placing her in the top 20% of all entrants.

Congratulations to all those who took part.

## Senior Mathematics Challenge

The Senior Mathematics Challenge took place in early October. Our A Level Mathematicians were joined by top-set pupils from Year 11 and the Development Year, and between them achieved a total of 18 Bronze certificates, 11 Silver certificates and three Gold certificates.

Silver certificates were awarded to: **Hei Yn (Vincent) Fan**, **Sebastian Forrest**, **Abigail Opaleye**, **Pak Dik (Aidan) So**, **Joe Downey**, **Yitong Hao**, **Aidan Kitching**, **Jakob Heberger**, **Zhakhngir Mamayev**, **Luke Saunders** and **Tin Ching (Ryan) Tang**.

**Eloise Etherington**, **Ethan Chivers** and **Shuyue (Sarah) Zhou** were all awarded Gold certificates and will be taking part in the next round of the Challenge (the Senior Kangaroo) – we wish them luck!

# Hundreds of Youngsters in Science Bonanza

Hundreds of primary school pupils from across Gloucestershire converged on Wycliffe College on Wednesday 19th October as the School hosted its annual STEM Day. A range of visiting speakers featured, including TV's *Gastronaut*, **Stefan Gates**, and the award-winning science communicator and materials scientist, **Dr Jamie Gallagher**.

More than 400 pupils ranging from Years 5 to 8 enjoyed a host of live demonstrations, hands-on interactive workshops and all-round science fun.

Stefan focused on "Science you can eat and fartology" – the science of food and digestion, whilst Jamie spoke on "Nanoinvasion" and the strange alien world that is nanotechnology.

As well as these keynote events, there were sessions by local organisations, including STEMworks, Renishaw, Slimbridge WWT, Bloodhound and the Jenner Institute.

The day is organised by Director of Science, **Mr Clements**, and Head of Sixth Form, **Mr Archer**. Mr Archer said, "It was great to be back with Wycliffe STEM after two years away and the 12 local schools who joined us have had a terrific time being thoroughly immersed in science enrichment."

Wycliffe's own pupils got involved too, with Sixth Formers delivering lessons from their own areas of expertise, including sessions on 'flesh eaters', polymers, farming, algorithms, Garage Band, and stop motion animation.



## Year 8's Wacky Races

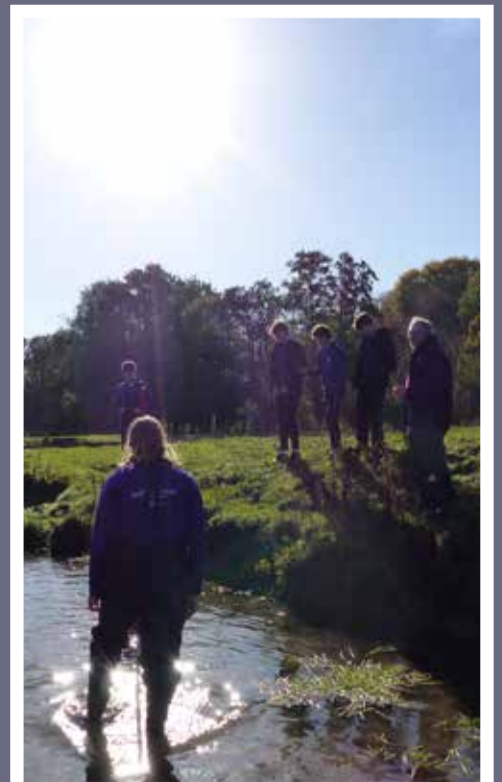
Recently, as part of their 'Speed, Distance & Time' unit, Year 8 pupils took part in an experiment which saw them race **Mr Holroyde's dog, Maggie**, and a car over a 40m distance with some interesting results!

Upon completing their investigations, pupils had collected some relatable real-world data which was then used throughout the unit for graphing and looking at acceleration curves.

## Geography Field Trip

On 17th and 18th October, Year 11 Geography pupils followed the River Churn from Ullenwood, Cheltenham, to Stratton, Cirencester, measuring discharge of the river at various points along its course.

As part of this, they discussed the risks of river fieldwork (as well mitigation measures!), together with different methods of approach and the accuracy of taking readings in a fieldwork setting.





Jabberwocky by Theo McBurney (Year 7)



Brandon



Name



Alistair Spurr (Year 6)



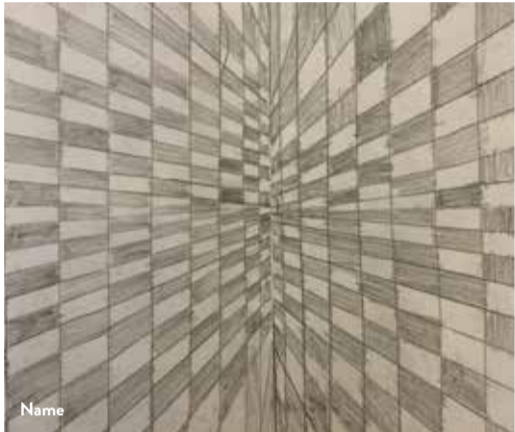
Jabberwocky by Kayleigh Mustoe (Year 7)



Sophie Gaskell (Year 6)



Rawdon



Name

# Prep Art Focus



Cubism by Chelsey Atherton-Smith (Year 8)



Jabberwocky by Madeline Francis (Year 7)

At the end of November, pupils were excited to be able to showcase their artistic endeavours in an Art Exhibition at the Prep School.

Throughout the term, Year 6's studies of Surrealism and the work of Salvador Dalí saw them changing objects and creating rooms using their imaginations.

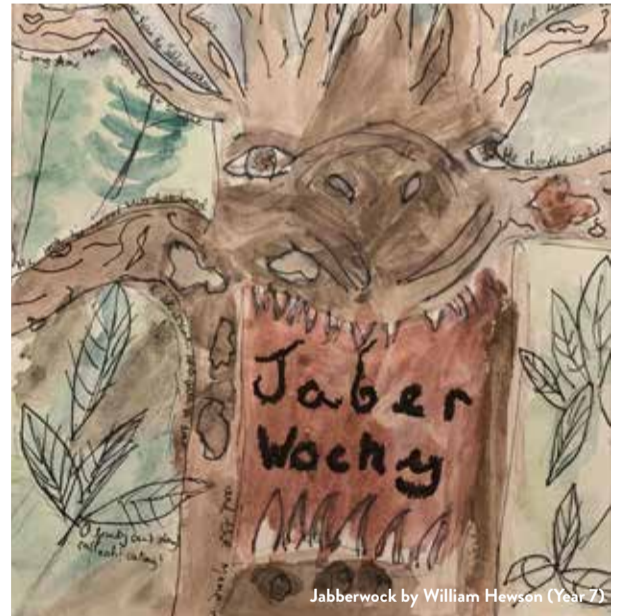
Meanwhile, Year 7 illustrated Lewis Carroll's poem *Jabberwocky*, creating pieces that illustrate the poem's dark sense of a monster lurking in the forest.

And Year 8 focused on Cubism and the work of Pablo Picasso, with an emphasis on creating depth and distortions.

We're sure you'll agree that the finished pieces (pictured here together with other Prep artworks) are very impressive. Well done to all those involved!



Cubism by Rubie Watts (Year 8)



Jabberwocky by William Hewson (Year 7)

## Year 12 Design and Technology trip

On Wednesday 5th October, Year 12 D&T pupils visited the Design Museum, Science Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum to understand what makes for outstanding and innovative design. The highlight was the ASMR (Autonomous Sensory

Meridian Response) exhibit at the Design Museum.

This is the first exhibition of its kind and takes ASMR from the screen into a physical space. Some of the group enjoyed it so much that they are hoping to go back again in their own time.

## Senior School pupils visit major London art exhibitions

In October, 34 pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 visited two major art exhibitions in London: 'William Kentridge at the Royal Academy' in Piccadilly, and 'Lucian Freud: New Perspectives' at the National Gallery.

The William Kentridge exhibition was an impressive and exciting show, with stop-motion videos, tapestries and sculptures, as well as Kentridge's extraordinary large-scale charcoal drawings, spread over a number of

the main galleries at the Royal Academy.

After spending a fascinating hour and a half there, pupils walked down Haymarket to the National Gallery where, as well as enjoying the Freud, they had time to take in some of the world-class permanent collection before re-joining the coach outside the Reform Club on Pall Mall and getting an education in gridlock on the A4 as they left the capital!

## Choral Day with world-renowned group

The first half term concluded with a superb Choral Day.

We invited the internationally recognised vocal ensemble Apollo5 to Wycliffe. They spent the morning working with VOX and Chapel Choir, workshopping music they already knew and working on ensemble skills.

We welcomed Prep School and visiting young singers to join us for the afternoon, where Apollo5 took the large group of singers aged eight to 18 through learning new warm-ups and repertoire.

The day concluded with a fantastic concert to showcase the music the singers



had been learning, along with a set of performances by Apollo5 to inspire us. A superb day for all involved!



## What a show!

On Friday 25th November, the Year 7s pulled together an absolutely magnificent performance of *Shrek*. When asked what they thought about putting together a production in a week, they told us it was: "Amazing!", "We worked as a team!", and "It was such fun!".

There is no doubt that there were some



moments in the week of rehearsals where a lot of work was needed and the year group had to really pull themselves up and keep practising, but what an outcome! Congratulations to everyone involved!

# Musicians delight in Joint Teatime Concert

In November, musicians from the Prep and Senior Schools performed in a Joint Teatime Concert at the Prep School Performing Arts Centre Studio Theatre.

The concert featured a lovely variety of solo and group pieces, all performed to a very high standard. A highlight included VOX's

performance of *You Will Be Found* from the musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, sung by four Senior School musicians who all started their musical journeys at the Prep School: **Hannah Denning**, **Lucy McKerrow**, **Abigail Opaleye** and **Naomi Opaleye**. It was Rose Tangye who stole the show with her performance of her own composition, *In the Eyes of the Beholder*.



## House Song Evening

House Song Evening was a night to remember and a fantastic way to celebrate new friendships and collaborations between housemates at the start of another school year.

Each Head of House did a brilliant job of leading their House's performance, complete with impressive choreography and carefully chosen outfits.

Songs ranged from Rick Astley's *Never Gonna Give You Up* and Earth, Wind & Fire's *September*, to more modern

hits such as *Cooler Than Me* by Mike Posner.

The standard of performances was very high and our judge, **Dr Jon James**, had a very difficult decision to make. Ultimately though, it was Ward's House who took away this year's trophy with their powerful and uplifting rendition of *I Ain't Worried* by One Republic.

Congratulations to Ward's and well done to everyone involved. Here's to House Song Evening 2023!

## National Youth Choir of Great Britain

**Abigail Opaleye** (Year 11, Collingwood) and **Naomi Opaleye** (Year 13, Collingwood) have been invited to join the National Youth Choir of Great Britain Training Choir. **Lucy McKerrow** (Year 13, Lampeter) is already a member, which means we now have three Senior School singers representing Wycliffe at national level, along with three Prep School singers; **Olivia Deshais** (Year 8) and **Lula Turner** (Year 7) are members of the National Youth Choir Girls' Choir, and **Rowan Cooper** (Year 7) has just been invited to join the National Youth Boys' Choir.



# Pre-Prep pupils meet real-life heroes



To support the autumn term topic of Superheroes in Pre-Prep, pupils welcomed some real-life heroes to school in the form of the local fire service and a blood bike! On both occasions, children asked

questions, climbed aboard the vehicles, tried on uniforms and, during the fire service visit, even have a go at spraying the hose across the Pre-Prep car park!



## Superhero Day

On day two of new academic year, children in Pre-Prep took part in a Superhero-themed day. Children and staff dressed up as their favourite real-life or fictional superheroes and immersed themselves in a world of adventure, mystery and triumph!

They took part in writing, craft and physical activities, as well as welcoming the immersive story-telling company the Adventure Team to school. Given the noise that could be heard from inside the Studio Theatre, children clearly loved hearing all about the adventures of Super Sticky Boy and his quest to defeat his arch nemesis, the evil Toymaker!

This event provided children with a window into their themed learning for the term ahead and their enthusiasm for this amazing topic has definitely not yet dwindled.



## Loosley Halls pupils raise over £2,000 for charity

Following on from the success of their 'Wear it Pink' non-uniform day, which raised £885 for Breast Cancer Now, Loosley Halls pupils have continued their fundraising efforts.

On 15th and 16th October, they completed a sponsored row in aid of the same charity. Taking turns on the two rowing machines, pupils rowed for a total of ten hours, covering a distance of 226km (or the length of River Thames) and raising a fantastic £1,160 for the breast cancer charity.

Congratulations to all involved!

# A wild day out at Longleat!



by Callum M and Blake H

Wycliffe boarders recently went to Longleat Safari Park, filled with excitement and joy as we experienced the wonders of nature. We saw a lot of cool animals - giraffes, lions, and some monkeys who liked to sit on cars.

We think it was a great experience especially when we got to see a pack of lions chasing each other around which got all the kids jumping out of their seats in excitement!

We also saw creatures like otters, red pandas and a massive elephant. Many of the boarders

went into a cage full of coloured birds - one even sat on our heads. We felt like pirates!

The boarders had a great time at Longleat!



## Bake for Bone Cancer

On Friday 14th October, Senior School staff and pupils held a bake sale in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Together, they raised a total of £557.29 which will go to support valuable research into treatments and hopefully a future cure for this disease. Well done to all those involved, whether in a baking or a cake-eating capacity!



# Pre-prep pupils celebrate Harvest Festival

On the final day of term one, children welcomed their parents to the Senior School Chapel to watch the annual Pre-Prep Harvest Festival service.

To celebrate all the wonderful food that is

harvested at this time of year, pupils came together and sang Harvest-themed songs, including *The Potato Song*, *Little Mouse* and the *Harvest Hoedown*, as well as reading Harvest poems and joining in with Harvest-

themed hymns with the whole congregation.

Across the school, children were challenged to collect Harvest donations in preparation for the Harvest service; a collection which would provide essential help for our local

food bank in Stroud. The amazing effort and generosity from the Wycliffe community was displayed for all to see in the Chapel during the service and was delivered to Stroud Food Bank during the half term holiday.

## EAL pupils visit Bath and Bristol



In October, following on from related cultural studies research, DY and Year 9 EAL students enjoyed a packed Brunel-themed experience in Bristol.

After first traversing his suspension bridge at Clifton, pupils travelled through the Avon Gorge to the SS Great Britain where they had fun exploring the ship, dressing up, and finding out more information from the 'passengers' on board.

The group then found their sea legs while crossing the river on a small open-topped ferry, before walking briskly through the town centre to see sights such as Millennium Square, Queen's Square and St Nicholas Market. After a little free time, they were treated to a West End performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Bristol Hippodrome.

# Year 6 visit National Waterways Museum, Gloucester

by Faye Shaw (Year 6)

On Thursday 17th November, Year 6 took a trip to Gloucester's Waterways Museum.

We started off by walking into the museum, where we were led into the Sabrina 5 (a grounded boat). After that our tour guide led us on a tour of the docks, stopping to give us talks at places like the railway tracks, The Mariners Chapel, the swing bridge and the warehouses.

When we got back, we had a presentation and talk about Gloucester's history, including key facts like how it was the perfect place to build a settlement, how a king and a saint were buried there, how they suffered a civil war (and lost) against the King, and lots more.

Finally, we got split in half, one group doing a worksheet around the museum and our half learning about/building cranes. After that we swapped over. Finally, we reunited and headed back to Wycliffe on the bus.



# King Harold makes a comeback

On Friday 7th November, Year 7 History pupils re-enacted the Battle of Hastings, an event which took place just over 956 years ago.

The pupils had a wonderful time 'fighting' each other with their homemade shields and cardboard swords. Led by King Harold (**Mrs Grant**) and William of Normandy (**Mrs Taylor**), the pupils really got into the tactics of battle and will long remember what happened on this

important day in history because of all the fun and excitement they experienced.

The whole day's events were orchestrated by **Mr Arman**, who was able to brief the pupils and direct affairs. Through this role play, the pupils were able to consider how Harold may have won, especially if he had employed different tactics on the day, but as usual William's clever method of breaking the shield wall proved decisive!



## Year 6 experience a Victorian education

On Monday 7th November, Year 6 were able to experience what it would have been like to attend a Victorian school. The pupils had a go at writing with chalk using traditional cursive script and tested their spelling in an on-the-spot drill. Through this exercise they were able to understand the ideas behind the teaching of the '3Rs' and the traditional punishments given to pupils when they did not meet the high standards of the teacher and their assistant!





## An adventurous day out for Years 3 and 4

For their autumn expedition day, Years 3 and 4 completed a problem-solving hunt along the Stroudwater Navigation canal and enjoyed a talk and lock demonstration at the Canal Trust in Stroud. The children had a lovely day overall, walking five miles in total and even finding the energy for a play in the park on the way back!



## Year 5 enjoy 'best school day ever!'

by Lewis Sandison and Brandon Lovewell (both Year 5)

On the morning of our Expedition Day we started off with some swimming challenges like the ducky race. We took turns to go and swim a length with a rubber duck on our heads. It was really fun!

After that, **Mrs Flake** and **Mrs Tapley** wrote all our names on different balloons and we had to find the balloon that had our name on it. In the first round, if we found a different person's balloon, we could not give it to them. In the second round we could help each other out. We found that the second round we did it faster!

Then we were up for a big challenge: we had to make the biggest towers possible towers out of non-cooked spaghetti and marshmallows. Most of the towers collapsed but one stayed up. It was very frustrating but we got through it!

At one o'clock we got on the bus and went off to Ninja Warrior. There was an awesome jump tower and it was really exiting to jump off backwards.

At end the day we threw foam blocks at Mrs Flake. It was the best school day ever!

# Remembrance Week



Outside of Summer Camp, Remembrance Week is the busiest week of the year for the CCF. This week started with an extra drill session in order to be ready for the Sunday Parade. It was great to see so many Year 11 cadets turn out for the rehearsal on Monday night with it being internal exam week for them.

On Tuesday, **Maj Archer** led the morning Chapel service, and the senior cadets dressed the Wall of Honour with poppies. Maj Archer's talk was on saluting, and he finished by formally saluting the dressed Wall of Honour.

Wednesday Chapel was led by **Padre Chris Kinch**, a regular Army serving Chaplain who talked passionately about Remembrance.

Wednesday evening saw another drill

rehearsal with the banner party of Year 13 cadets staying late to practice in Chapel for their role on Sunday.

On Thursday morning, the cadets delivered an excellent Remembrance Chapel service focussing on the 40-year commemoration of the Falklands Conflict. Well done to CSM **Rosie Palk** for its preparation and to those cadets who delivered it.

On Saturday morning, five Sixth Form cadets volunteered to help the Royal British Legion by selling poppies in Stonehouse High Street. The RBL have expressed their thanks, and many members of the local community have told me how pleased they were to see the cadets out helping.

For many of our military families Remembrance Sunday is a very special

day; the CCF turned up in great numbers to the College Remembrance Service and then for the march to the War Memorial in Stonehouse. Thank you to **Flo Smalley** for laying the wreath in Chapel on behalf of the pupils and to OW **Lt Jon Day** (Ward's) who laid a wreath on behalf of all Old Wycliffians.

Before the march up the High Street, Maj Archer presented awards to three cadets: Cdt **Charlie Ashman** for the 'Best Shot at Bisley'; Cdt **Micah Groves** for 'Best Recruit'; and CSgt **Jack Tawls** for completing the Master Cadet Course.

The contingent marched up to the War Memorial with CSgt Jack Tawls carrying the banner and CSM Rosie Palk leading the parade and laying a wreath on behalf of the contingent. Well done to all involved.

## Forest School

In Forest School so far this year, pupils have collected blackberries; picked pears, apples and plums from the trees; and have observed the changes in the seasons and colours since the summer break.

They have been creative too, painting leaves, sticks and trees using autumnal colours, and using clay and natural resources to make animals and tree faces.

## D of E pupils find their way

September saw 24 Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Award pupils experience their first taste of map reading on their first Bronze walk; they hiked along the Cotswold Way up to Standish Woods and then navigated back to school in groups. We were very impressed with both their teamworking skills and their positive approach! All enjoyed the sunny weather and the hot chocolate that they cooked on their camping stoves at lunchtime.



## Cadets on exercise at Swynnerton

Saturday 24th to Monday 26th September saw 21 CCF cadets going on exercise to Swynnerton training camp for the first time since September 2019.

After a frosty start to Sunday morning, the cadets took part in a recap of section attack and patrolling drills. The afternoon looked at 'snap-and-deliberate-ambush' drills. Sunday evening was a little warmer with a section attack on the enemy which the cadets had recce'd during the Sunday evening. All cadets were motivated and learned they can survive when things get a little tough!



## Announcements

### Marriages and Births

To share news of your nuptials and new arrivals, please email [TWS@wycliffe.co.uk](mailto:TWS@wycliffe.co.uk)

### Deaths

During the Autumn Term, we sadly said goodbye to:

**Dawn King** (Hon OW & Staff Member 1997-2020)

**Sir Antony Reardon Smith** 4th Bt (H 1951-1955)

**Peter John Francis Smythe** (CL W H 1946-1950)

**Richard Poulton** (Head of Wycliffe College & Hon OW 1980-1986)

**Simon F. Smith** (P S 1968-1975)

**Revd. Peter J.E. Jackson** (SPR 1966-1970)

**Peter R. Francis** (J SPR 1950-1959)

**Richard B. Downes** (J S 1954-1963)

For more information and to read any of the obituaries, please go to: <https://www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/news/obituaries/>

## Class of 1962 virtual reunion



In October, members of the Class of 1962 took the opportunity to meet via Teams to mark 60 years since they left Wycliffe College. It was a very international affair, with **Roger Moore** (J W 1955-1962) joining from New Brunswick, Canada, **Jon Masters** (Spr 1956-1962) joining from Alberta, Canada, and **David Lindop** (J S 1957-1962) from the UK.

## Reunion at Cadogan Hall

At a recent concert at Cadogan Hall, London, where OW **Al Stewart** (J SH 1955-1962) was performing, OWs **Ben Pollard** (1959-1964), **Chris Owen** (SH 1959-1963), and **Jim Smylie** (SH 1959-1963) took at opportunity to have their own mini



## TWS Calendar 2022

### December

**Sat 3rd** TWS Carol Service, Wycliffe College Chapel  
6.30pm

For further information on TWS Events in 2023, please refer to our website <https://www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/wycliffian-events/> or email [TWS@wycliffe.co.uk](mailto:TWS@wycliffe.co.uk)

### JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Wycliffian Society [thewycliffiansociety](https://www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/)



The Wycliffians



wycliffealumni



# Remembering Richard Poulton

**Richard Poulton**, fifth Headmaster of Wycliffe College (1980-1986) and Honorary Old Wycliffian, passed away on 23rd September 2022, aged 84.

Richard came from a very modest beginning in life. The son of a local parish vicar and a Red Cross volunteer, he grew up in rural south Devon as one of four children in a loving, hard-working and community-spirited family.

Offered a place at Pembroke College, Cambridge aged 16 (to start five years later), on leaving school Richard initially worked as a trainee accountant, and then a brewery labourer, before crossing the Atlantic to spend an eye-opening year studying at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

He later described the biggest lesson from his time in the US: to value people above everything else - something that helped to shape his kind, caring and thoughtful nature through the rest of his life.

On leaving Cambridge with a first-class honours degree, Richard began his teaching career at Bedford School, and at around that time he met and married his devoted wife, **Zara** (known as **Sally**), who was a source of strength and support for him throughout the rest of his life.

Richard became the fifth Headmaster of

Wycliffe College in 1980, where he spent six years working extremely hard to grow and develop the school. This included developing a new girls' boarding house, and numerous other changes to the campus and running of the school.

In 1987, the Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference recommended that he apply for the job as Headmaster of Christ's Hospital in West Sussex, telling him it was "the school for him". Richard brought stability and a clear vision during his tenure, demonstrating his passion for providing the opportunity of an excellent education to children who needed it.

After retiring fully from day-to-day school life, he continued in the field of educational charities, becoming involved with The Inner Cities Young People's Project, and then the All Saints' Educational Trust. In 2008-9, he became Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.

A man of strong faith and renowned for working hard, Richard provided strong yet calm and sensitive leadership in his schools and organisations. He always took great interest in those around him, making time to guide and encourage pupils, colleagues and family alike.

Cherished by his family and friends he was always a joy to be with, his trademark smile and twinkly eyes sharing his joy with the



people around him. His outlook is perhaps best described by a line in a recent letter to his grandchildren: "Enjoy your lives, and aim to communicate with others, and do good with them and for them."

**Richard Poulton** was born on 21st June 1938 and died on 23rd September 2022 following a stroke. He is survived by his wife **Zara**, and children **Elizabeth**, **Anthony** and **Benedict**.

To read **Richard Poulton's** full obituary, and the other obituaries featured on TWS website, please go to: [wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/news/obituaries.](https://www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/news/obituaries/)

## TWS London drinks

This year's TWS London Drinks were generously hosted by OW **John May** OBE DL (W 1977-1982) at The Lansdowne Club, Mayfair. With guests from across the generations, including recent leavers from the Class of 2022 and those who left College in the 1950s, it was an excellent opportunity for people to connect and reconnect with friends, old and new, including those who hadn't seen each other for 30 years.



To see more photos, please go to: [wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/events/](https://www.wycliffe.co.uk/the-wycliffian-society/events/)

## Wycliffe College Remembrance Service

At this year's Wycliffe College Remembrance Service, the wreath in memory of those OWs who have lost their life in the service of their country was laid by OW **Lt Johnny Day** RA (W 2009-2014). Also present at the service was OW **Maj Gen Richard Clements** CBE (P W 1978-1989).



## OWs giving back

Congratulations also to OWs **Emily Wymer** (P IG 2006-2014) and **James Hulme** (H 2017-2022) who both ran the London Marathon. Emily was raising money to support Cancer Research UK in memory of her grandmother and James was raising money for the Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group in memory of his friend **Thomas (Toti) Worboys**.



# Friday Night Lights



## Rugby

Our annual Friday Night Lights match was much earlier in the season this year and the boys were excited to get stuck in against opponents The King's School, Gloucester.

The game started well, with both sides showing attacking intent and abrasive defensive efforts. King's struck first and, despite strong phases of possession from Wycliffe and a valiant run from **Ollie Gabb** who was brought down just short of the

try line, the score at half time was 14-0 to King's.

There were missed opportunities for the Wycliffe team, who kept taking contact rather than one more pass to get on the outside of the defence. After a good passage of play late in the second half, **Georges Cooper** powered over to make the score 17-7. There was plenty more pressure from



## Hockey

For the second year running, we welcomed Collegiate to Wycliffe for our annual Friday Night Lights match.

Last year, an incredibly tight game was played out, with the home team just pinching it 1-0. This year would prove to be just close.

The first half finished 0-0. Wycliffe had the better chances and were unlucky not to go ahead, missing a clear chance on the back post. Minutes later the Collegiate goalkeeper was forced into making a fine save when

Wycliffe were put through one on one.

Tables turned in the second half, with Collegiate now having the better chances. **Orla Wright** made a number of fine saves before a breakaway short corner gave Wycliffe the chance to get on the scoreboard.

A slick routine between **Mimi Green** and **Laila Howse** sent the ball thundering into the backboard, sending the crowd into rapturous applause and putting the home team 1-0 up.

Minutes later, the score line was doubled when a clinical short corner and a well-worked play found captain Mimi at the back post to

calmly slot home.

Pressure mounted, and with 15 minutes left to play, Collegiate found themselves with a goal back after a clinical finish. The momentum was clearly with the visitors, and one quickly became two. Collegiate took full advantage of the final nervy moments and scored what proved to be the winner with two minutes left on the clock.

A brilliant game of hockey for the spectators and, with the overall score at one win each, the girls are already looking forward to next year!



## Touring Team

This term we welcomed Claire's Court School from Maidenhead to Wycliffe as a part of their 'Bristol Tour'.

It was fantastic to see Saturday morning sport back on at the Prep School and the two Netball and Rugby matches were incredibly evenly contested.

The netballers took two narrow wins and the Colts' A held on in a seven-try thriller. Colts B went down admirably but didn't stop trying, the equalising try just evading them on this occasion.

I'm pleased to say the Claire's Court will be returning next year when they visit the South West on tour again.

## Wycliffe rowers make a splash at GB trials

It has been a busy start to the season for the rowers at Wycliffe; they have competed as a club in several different head races, from Scullers Head back in September to Fours Head more recently.

In November, Wycliffe sent seven girls to the Junior Great Britain team trial in Boston, Lincolnshire. There were some fantastic performances, with four girls securing top twenty rankings: **Ella Fullman** (2); **Yasmin Howe** (6); **Kathryn Burton** (8); and **Lily Martin** (18). **Eloise Etherington**, **Violet Holbrow-Brooksbank** and **Mia Lowes** also performed brilliantly. All the girls have worked incredibly hard and have put themselves in a great position going into the next round of water trials at the start of the February half term.



## Congratulations Yasmin!

**Yasmin Howe** (Year 13) entered Wycliffe with an idea already formulated: she wanted to go to the US to row. From the get-go, she was hell-bent on a top programme, focusing her attention on the list of rankings.



The University of Texas at Austin was number one on that list, recruiting the best rowers across the globe. Yasmin's spirit in pursuit of her goal has been unwavering and she has approached recruitment with fervour. Supported by her family, teachers, coaches, and our US universities admissions expert (**Mrs Miller**) throughout the two-year process, Yasmin has just recently signed her National Letter of Intent to become a Texas Longhorn!

## Elisabeth impresses at Beach Sprint

In October, **Elisabeth (Liz) Sekinger** was selected to represent Great Britain in the U19 Women's Double Scull at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in Saundersfoot, Wales.

The competition was held over three days, beginning with a time trial before heading into side-by-side racing.

Liz and her teammate beat Poland and France in the early stages, progressing to a semi-final against favourites Spain. Despite a closely run race, they lost out to the Spanish team, leaving them to compete with the USA for the bronze medal.

Unfortunately, an ill-timed breaker on the way back to the beach overturned their boat and meant that, sadly, they didn't achieve a podium place this time. Still, rowing for Great Britain represents a fantastic achievement - well done Liz!

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

If you'd like to include an announcement in the next edition, please contact The Wycliffian Society team via [TWS@wycliffe.co.uk](mailto:TWS@wycliffe.co.uk)

Also - receive regular updates by following our social media pages. On Twitter via @wycliffealumni, on Instagram via @thewycliffiansociety and join our LinkedIn group 'The Wycliffians'.

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

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# Runners show heart in House Cross Country



This year, the House Cross Country course was slightly altered to allow all pupils to start at the same point in staggered races.

The school races went off first followed by the elite races. As the main race started to finish, the Tily Field at the Prep school filled with House colours and cheers of support. The atmosphere encouraged the runners, and despite their tired legs starting to wobble in the last 100m there were lots of smiles as the noisy support from

their Houses kept them going to the line.

The elite races were won by **Talia Owen** (Junior Girls), **Nico Perez** (Junior Boys), **Ana Derbaix** (Senior Girls) and **Xander Allman** (Senior Boys). Lampeter was the top-placed House for both the Junior and Senior Girls, while Robinson won out for the Junior Boys and Haywardsfield was victorious for the Senior Boys.

Well done to all the runners. involved!

## Hockey and Rugby Roundup

It's been another busy term of Rugby and Hockey, with both sports having plenty of fixtures home and away.

This year we have seen touch fixtures introduced at Senior and Colt's age groups for those who have had less exposure to contact rugby. This enables players in those year groups to build confidence in a time frame that suits them. The introduction of touch rugby has been a huge success and will

be part of our planning moving forward.

Our Boy's 1st team have enjoyed a particularly strong season, winning some tight matches, and it has been great to see these boys develop throughout the season under the guidance of **Mr Taylor** and **Mr Trinder**. **Mr Kimber** has equally enjoyed a fine season with the Colt's A, who are a free-scoring side; they are working tirelessly on the defensive aspects of their game as

they build towards Senior Rugby in Year 7.

The Girl's Hockey sides have continued to develop their style of play and are working hard on their basics to become more consistent. Alongside Wednesday fixtures, there have been two trips to IAPS Competitions for our U11 and U13s.

Our U13s performed admirably, winning two and losing two, and made it through to the quarter final. Our U11s had an equally impressive day, making it through to a semi final; unfortunately, they were beaten by eventual winners Clifton.

## Victory at Merchiston Castle Rugby Festival

On Thursday 13th October, 18 brave players boarded a coach bound for Edinburgh and the Merchiston Castle Rugby Festival. With no wins in the opening five fixtures of the season, and only four tries scored, it is safe to say that hopes were not high.

The Merchiston Festival is a growing tournament, attracting some of the best rugby schools in Scotland and England. Facing the hosts on the main pitch in the opening fixture made for a difficult start. Further games against Norwich and Peebles meant day one was less of a mountain to climb and more of a sheer cliff to ascend. But these eighteen rugby players are made of tough stuff. The team spirit built visiting the dungeons of the Scottish capital and generated by squad sessions listening to Classic FM made them a tough nut to

crack! And so, Wycliffe 1st XV battled hard; although a win eluded them, they got better with every match, only narrowly losing to Peebles.

On day two, a physical Bedford team were run close before a Shield semi-final against Ayr Rugby Club. Wycliffe weathered the opening storm and soaked up the pressure before **Zach Rowles** went over from close range. A **Toby Grant** interception stretched the lead before a team try was finished by **Luca Webb**. **Billy 'Rock Star' Kerslake** scored from a typically bullocking run, and **Sam Gregory** converted from the touchline.

The Shield final was played against St Benedict's School, Ealing, a well-drilled and motivated team who started the tournament with a far larger squad than

Wycliffe. But, as David proved when faced with the might of Goliath, size is far from everything.

All eighteen players in the squad were involved in the final, the team's sixth game in 26 hours. Billy Kerslake, Wycliffe's equivalent of David's slingshot, propelled himself forward to score from a lineout, and the purple 15 led 5-0 at half time.

After the break, St Benedict's piled on the pressure and levelled the scores with a try in the corner. But nothing could dampen the spirits of Wycliffe, and the decisive score came with two minutes left, captain **Naquan Smith** powering over following another team attack. There was still time for St Benedict's to make a comeback, but Wycliffe's dogged defence secured the victory and the Shield!

## House Cross Country

The whole School turned out in their House colours for House Cross Country. It was a brilliant event, with plenty of smiles as the different age groups made their way around three separate courses.

Great conditions meant quick times for the Juniors: **Bodie**, **Charlie** and **Muhammad** were the top three boys, and **Mia**, **Esme** and **Arabella** took the first three places for the girls. The Inters and Seniors lined the course and cheered on all the Juniors, some even helping the Juniors get round the tricky course.

The Inters went next, with **Alistair**, **Seb H** and **Tisbu** finishing in the top three for the boys, while **Darcey**, **Niamh** and **Alex** placed first, second and third for the girls.

The Inters and Juniors then made their way out on the course to watch the Seniors compete. Ted pushed **Mr Burden** (the hare!) the whole way round, finishing first; **Harry** and **Lucas** came in behind him. **Bella** was first to cross the line for the girls, with **Molly** and **Holly** a close second and third.

A wonderful whole school Cross Country event that will run again in the Spring Term.

