

# The Young Wycliffian

2022/23



## A Roundup

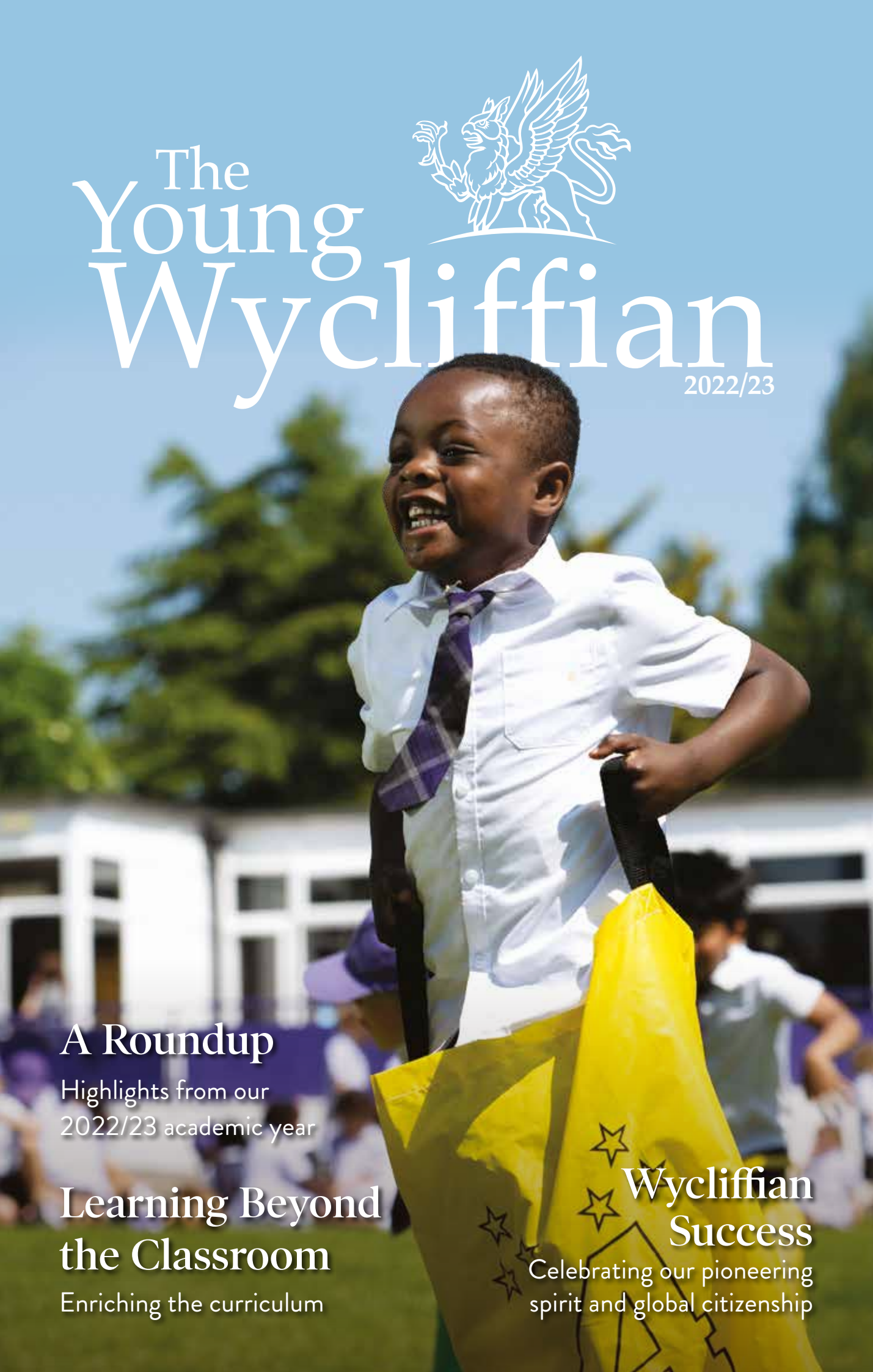
Highlights from our  
2022/23 academic year

## Learning Beyond the Classroom


Enriching the curriculum

## Wycliffian Success

Celebrating our pioneering  
spirit and global citizenship



# Independent Schools Inspectorate



“ That they demonstrate high levels of self-confidence as a result of individual support from staff who know them very well. ”



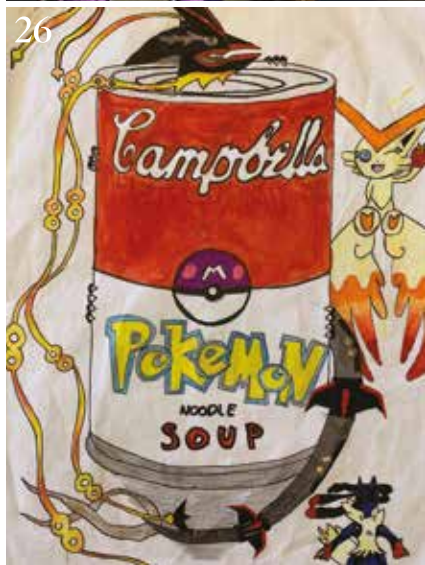
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# THE HEAD'S SPEECH

Chair, Trustees, Guests, Parents and all Wycliffe pupils, welcome to our Prep School Speech Day 2023.

To all Trustees I thank you for the time and consideration which you put into Wycliffe and for the continued support to me in this role.

The Prep School would not be the incredible place that it is without the teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and the boarding team who give their creativity, care and dedication to the pupils at every level – whether that's a hug when things are tough, through to designing creative academic tasks, keeping the grounds immaculate, running sport or clubs after school, instilling a passion for chess, a cheerful smile when things are tricky, finding that lost mid layer, sharing a passion for polo, hosting House events, showing off exceptional art, starting a new knitting craze, encouraging the eco-warriors, wearing subject specific clothing, taking our pupils on residential trips, calling home to bring in a missing violin, waking boarders up with a cheery 'good morning!' or taking them to London for exeat weekend for the Trooping of the Colour. These things knot together to create an extraordinary experience for our pupils. It has been appreciated, and I thank you all.

One of the people who has been there to pat pupils on the back, give you a plaster, who will be there when you fall over in the playground is our matron **Mrs Coombes** who retires at the end

of this term. She was literally brought up in the Prep School! We wish her the best.

I want to recognise and acknowledge the SMT Team, **Mr Irwin, Mr Stone, Mrs Askew, Mr Aherne** and **Mr Mason**, who have given their all this year in their respective responsibility areas to



the Prep School. They have supported the staff team, pupils and parents, and their flexibility and responsiveness to wherever it is needed has been a huge part of our success this year. We have each in turn been supported by a hugely capable, positive and eternally calm office support team - **Mrs Vicary** and **Mrs Kitchin**. Thank you.

It is also important to recognise all

parents – thank you for being engaged in the education we provide at the Prep School – within this, the Parents Association (for wanting to put your funds towards fun things! – fireworks last Autumn, ice creams and discos!), Parent Voice groups who take their time to work alongside me to make the

Prep School ever better, the Boarding Parents who are often based internationally or far away but still make a huge effort to come for Boarding lunches or supper at the end of exeat weekends or join us online. There have also been some wonderful events, such as the Year 8 and 7s rounders evening and the Coronation picnic we held in the quad. The participation in the community hike last week was lovely to see and we have all agreed we would like to do more of that.

It has also been a year of some sadness – as a country we lost our Queen, there have been personal losses in this community and the world is no less complicated as we look forward. For

this reason, as I look out at the pupils in front of me, I encourage you to be the best versions of yourselves, be the ones who spread hope, joy and have the courage to be the changemakers.

Putting together this speech today, I thought hard about what would bring together all the strands which are important to the young people in front of me – from the youngest in



the audience who will look at this event aspirationally, hard as it is to imagine them completing their final year at Prep School, through to the Year 8s in the room, hours off being new Year 9s.

This has been a cohort who have had a roller coaster of a ride. They were at home for their Summer Term of Year 5, a very restricted start to Year 6 and the Spring Term online learning, and then a large intake of new and wonderful pupils, who had been through the same at their previous schools, arriving into Year 7. There were more new pupils than existing. They then had Year 7 to gel as a group, starting with camping outside my house in the September, they needed to find their 'people', mature themselves and navigate through the world post-covid. I cannot emphasise how proud I am of them with where they have got to sitting in from of me as Year 8s, so completely ready to move on to Year 9. They are an eclectic mix of different characters with huge strengths and talent and will certainly be the changemakers I referred to earlier.

Last year I spoke about maps and adventure –this year it revolves around the Fig Tree. I read a book back in October which resonated with me:

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*'The Island of Missing Trees'* by Elif Shafak which told part of the story from the perspective of a Fig. As my own understanding deepened, I realised that the Fig could teach us so much. With 73,000 species of trees on our planet, the Fig is particularly notable, and through the tales, symbolic references and cultural importance, this tree encompasses our Prep School core values of respect, responsibility, empathy and resilience along with our vision statement of a pioneering spirit and global citizenship.

A proud member of the great Mulberry family of Moraceae figs can be found across a vast geography - from California to Portugal and Lebanon,

from the shores of the Black Sea to the hills of Afghanistan and the valleys of India.

In ancient Greek mythology, the fig tree was seen as a symbol of abundance and fertility. In the Bible, it is a symbol of peace and prosperity and specifically in the New Testament, where it is used as metaphor for faith and spiritual growth. In Turkish culture, the fig tree represents hospitality and generosity. The world's major civilisations – the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all considered it a sacred tree.

In Hinduism, the fig tree is considered sacred and is associated with the God Vishnu. It is also believed to be a symbol of enlightenment and knowledge.





In Buddhism, the fig tree is known as the Bodhi tree, under which the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment. The Prophet Muhammed said that the fig was the tree he wanted to see in heaven.

I am very proud of our diverse community with pupils from across the world, from different parts of the UK, Europe and with many varied life experiences. Developing our understanding of how the world connects, what it is to understand different perspectives, but, far more importantly what is the same and similar in each and every one of us.

Our association with Round Square has given rise for opportunities for pupils from the Nursery Class to Year 8. We hosted our first postcard, which our Boarders delivered, to celebrate random acts of kindness day – 100 pupils from 5 continents were involved, The Year 6 Geographers connected with a school in Sao Paulo as part of their Brazil unit, the English Department collaborated with Trins School in India with Year 7 writing poems based on the theme of ‘Peace’ - there was a vote in both schools with the top three poems chosen written by **Lula Turner**, **Emily Cooper** and **Michelle Tahir** (all Year 7).

Our international food nights with the Boarders have been popular, with

the favourite probably being Katsu Curry! Our Religious Studies Subject leaders visited a mosque, and the last Discovery unit for the Year 8s was our ‘Questions of Faith’ workshop, with the chance to discuss and open our thoughts to a range of ideas and beliefs with particular mention to **John Boake** for his deep curiosity and wish to learn. Special mention also to **Rowan Cooper** (Year 7) who has recently been highly commended in the International Schools RS Association essay writing competition.

I would like to hand over to the first of our Heads of School from the Autumn Term this year – **Rory Scott** and **Ayesha Menon**.

Enriching our curriculum is an area where we are very proud at the Prep School. Most children from Year 5 to Year 8 and the Pre-Prep visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival - the 8s particularly enjoyed their session with **Lucy Strange**, and wrote some very engaging Gothic short stories as a result. Standouts include **Libby Rowlands**, **Abigail Casey**, **Mikey Gittins** (Year 8). Design and Technology marble run winners went to the MAD Museum, Court Room Drama this year was superbly represented with notable performances by **Yasmin Perez Henandez** and **Henry Surridge** Expeditions Days have taken

Year 3 and 4 pupils along the canal, Year 5 going to Ninja warrior and walking to Selsley, Year 6 learning circus skills and pedal a bike away, Year 7 walking in Standish wood, Mojo Active and the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail and Year 8 walking from Birdlip, caving and climbing.

Residential trips have been to Hooke Courte for Year 4, York for Year 5, Croft Farm for Year 6, Cornwall for Year 7, and the Brecon Beacons for Year 8. Each of these trips has added to our pupils’ view of themselves – they have been pushed outside their comfort zones, helped others, had to show courage and resilience, and sometimes they have had to egg-on teachers too!

For many of the pupils, these are the highlights of their year and part of making their memories which they will take with them. For the Year 8s – Stanley Western went to the very highest rung on the high ropes activity when he was not comfortable with heights, **William Bengtson** came out of his comfort zone when Gorge Walking and jumping down waterfalls and **Bella Stokes** went to the edge of the highest cliff jump four times and then jumped on the fifth – a true testament of not giving up. Residential trips also provide the opportunity for discovering new skills and passions in our pupils – **Laurence Williams** holds the stone skipping mastery prize!

Form prizes for performance, core values and all-round contribution			
	PERFORMANCE PRIZE	CORE VALUES PRIZE	ALL-ROUND CONTRIBUTION TO FORM GROUP PRIZE
3CL	Charlie Bullock	Muhammad Abdur-Rahman	Esme Stopford
4DM	Martha Davies	Josiah Varughese	James Nelson
5EF	Sylvie Digby	Niamh Pettingell	Matilda (Tilda) Adams
6SD	Frida Simonetti Biermann	Eddie Blenkinsop	Sophie Gaskell
6RT	Martha Woolley	Evie Westwater	Corey Sharpe
6CC	Sophie Taylor	Daniel Williams	Tom Hadley
7CE	Georgina Latimer	Isabella Watt	Jess Chambers
7DB	Seraphine Mosimann	Scarlett Parkes	Theo Farebrother
7MP	Molly Pettingell	Ellie Mouselli	Lula Turner
7RH	Olivia Dunn	William Hewson	Darcey Jones
7CG	Charlie Hoines	Jacob Ockwell	Sam Smalley
8TH	Abigail Casey	Rose Tangye	Teddy Spurr
8MS	William Bengtsson	Eishin Arita	Stanley Western
8SP	Emma Barrable	Laurence Williams	Lydia Liu
8SA	Olivia Deshais	Libby Rowlands	Heidi Harder

During a visit to the newly opened Renishaws STEM Education Centre, Mr Stone asked what skills employers were most looking for – and the answer was communication skills, resilience, and a self-motivation to learn and improve.

Communication skills is an area where our Discovery programme comes into its own – opportunities to research, present, debate and work in collaborative groups. Year 7 took part in our first Model United Nations unit debating the merits of fast food and if it should be banned for U13s, and showcases have provided the opportunity for pupils to share with parents and guests what they have been working on. Standouts include:

Year 6 Passion Projects sharing presentations with guests on a host of subjects from surfing to the History of Arsenal FC to British Goats (I learnt a lot!). They have also, as part of the

Sustainability Unit, held a conversation for one minute with visiting guests about the issue of plastics in our oceans.

The Year 6 entrepreneurship unit ‘make £5 grow’ culminated in a fair just before Christmas. There were fabulous projects such as wooden engraved signs, photo keyrings, smoothies, and vinyl record clocks, to name a few – recognition to **Lottie Heath** for her marketing of her product – even if we found out that two weeks later the ‘squidgies’ exploded and to **Casper Lee** and **Pearce Sun** who realised that £10 only goes so far when you are buying bacon for 100 people!

As part of the Discovery Programme, pupils have also learnt about the principles of flight from MOD engineers and the Cotswold Flying Club – who even brought their simulator in – the outstanding Year 8 was **George Blenkinsop**, who won the competition and a glider flight!

In Language lessons, some Year 6s and 7s have connected with pen pals in a school near Paris. They have written letters, by hand and created a padlet sharing information about themselves. We also celebrated the first languages Spelling Bee with the winning House being Scott!







Years 5 and 7 completed their English Speaking Board exams this year with particular mention to **Sylvie Digby** (Year 5), **Lula Turner** and **Seraphine Mossiman** (both Year 7) for achieving distinctions and a team of Year 7s visited Marling School twice for a Public Speaking competition. Year 7 also got through to the Youth Speaks Final (a Rotary Club event) where **Seraphine Mossiman**, **Angus Newland** and **Leo Benn** debated the merits of Plastic in front of a full house.

Visiting poet Spoz ran a workshop during the Wycliffe Literature Festival and **Haniya Lamkin Berry**, **Isabella Maida Doyle**, and **Libby Rowlands** in Year 8 all exhibited excellent rapping skills! I would like to thank **Mrs Patten** for her exceptional work leading English for the last four terms and wish her luck as she returns to Malaysia.

The quality of our drama productions has been exceptionally high this year– starting with ‘Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf’ for the Year 3s and 4s, with

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The quality of our drama productions has been exceptionally high this year– starting with ‘Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf’ for the Year 3s and 4s, with the outstanding scene between James Nelson (the Wolf) and Mia T (The Grandma). ‘The Lion King’ for the Year 5s and 6s was superb, with incredible performances from all the pupils. ‘Shrek’ for the Year 7s – with a shout-out to the incredibly funny Charlie Hoines and Leo Benn as the donkey  
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the outstanding scene between **James Nelson** (the Wolf) and **Mia T** (The Grandma).

‘The Lion King’ for the Year 5s and 6s was superb, with incredible performances from all the pupils.

‘Shrek’ for the Year 7s – with a shout-out to the incredibly funny **Charlie Hoines** and **Leo Benn** as the donkey.

‘Madagascar!’ What a fun and energy-rising production – **Mikey Gittins** for exceptional humour, **Rose Tangye** and **Olivia Deshais** for their singing, **Chelsey Atherton-Smith/Holly Tucker** for great props. A mention for utter resilience and his first-ever time in a stage production for **John Boake** as King Julien.



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**Drama prizes:**

The Cannon Cup for the best dramatisation in a school production:  
**Mikey Gittins**

The Wooten Drama Cup for outstanding contribution, enthusiasm, combined with creative flair:  
**Rose Tangye**

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When the Indonesian island volcano Krakatoa erupted in 1883, the waves it sent forth crashed into Bantam, some 50 kilometres away in western Java, and flattened the forest for more than 300 meters inland. All that remained standing were tall fig trees, bare branches reaching skyward.

Back on Krakatoa there was no trace of life. Much of the island had vaporised, and what was left was buried under a 60-meter-deep blanket of ash. Yet before long, several species of fig trees grew there too. They had arrived as seeds spread by birds and bats. They soon produced figs that drew in more flying animals, which in time carried the seeds of dozens of other tree species. And so, from black lava, a forest grew anew.

Learning is like this – there are things which we find difficult and having the

strength and resilience to complete something when in that space is one of the areas which we have and shall be continuing into next year, focussing on.

At this stage it is important to congratulate our EAL pupils – some of them arrive here with very little English and then become more and more confident in a relatively short period of time. They often help each other out, and I would like to thank **Kevin Xiao** for being **Hugo Wu**’s shadow and helping him find his way and translating so much in these last few weeks and **Hugo** for being **Kevin**’s eyes as his glasses floated off down the river when canoeing on the residential! I would also like to make mention of **Lucas Diaz Cuadrado** for his resilience – in boarding, learning English and some really tough times – and yet he has remained such a positive and kind member of our Year 8 and his writing progress has been exceptional. **Ava Lai** is also noted for arriving in Year 7 speaking very limited English and then, by this week in her Encompass Presentation showing such confidence in public speaking.

We say goodbye to **Mrs Davis** who has helped so many pupils with their EAL lessons and support – as well as teaching languages, Design and

Technology and sharing her love of dance! I would also like to thank **Mrs Reid** who has been a 1:1 specialist teacher in the Learning Centre – an inspirational woman who has helped many of our pupils.

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The Wilson Prize for Effort and a positive approach to Learning:  
**Laurence Williams**

Creative Writing Prize: **Isla Jones**  
  
Jackson Salver: For achieving the greatest number of House points over the Academic year:  
**Niamh Pettingell (1,128 House points)**

The Bird Cup presented for Academic Excellence based on Year 8 Assessment results: **Abigail Casey**

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I would like to say thank you to **Ms Easter** for her work this year and wish her all the best as she moves on to Vietnam. We have welcomed back in the last few weeks **Mrs Moore**, who has returned to work – I would also like to congratulate her on the birth of her daughter, **Mia**.

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James Askew ICT Prize: **Holly Tucker**  
  
Mental Maths Challenge: **Tom Hadley**

Linguist of the Year: **Eishin Arita**

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Art continues to be an area of high strength in our school with mention to **Noah Cannindine** for his Spiderman, **Blake Habbershaw** for his Keano Reeves stencil, **Sammy Churchill** for his Pop Art City and **Chelsey Atherton-Smith** for both her excellent progress in art, and also her Liverpool stencil.

I would like to say thank you and goodbye to **Mr Stopforth** after 18 years of being here and bringing on so much talent at the Prep School. Not teaching at Wycliffe will allow him time to focus on his own professional art.

Wyn Jones Art Prize: **Emma Barrable**  
Many Year 8s had to show resilience

with their Kirby Challenge – either realising that they had not done what they needed to, recognising that plans needed to change or doing something difficult. A range of activities took place – **Heidi Harder, Rubie Watts, Bella Stokes, Libby Rowlands** and **Haniya Lamkin Perry** all climbed Snowdon, **Chelsey Atherton Smith** and **Charlie Woollard** completed a long cycle and ran an origami club for Year 2s, there were dance clubs, talent shows, basketball clubs, netball tournaments arranged! **Rose Tangye** volunteered at an animal orphanage in Costa Rica, **Izzy Oytaben** and **Phoebe Harris** ran pamper nights in Boarding and **Issie Gota, Ava Lai, Lydia Liu** baked on a

Saturday morning with the younger boarders. **Sammy Churchill** planned to climb Snowdon but his plans were scuppered, and he had to adapt, and **Teddy Spurr** designed the ‘dragon treasure game’ for the Year 3s, which they loved. **Alexis Dokpesi** made hair accessories using her sewing talents, and **Yasmin Perez Hernandez** and **Ayesha Menon** helped at a homeless charity one evening in Bristol, which impacted them both hugely, as shown through their Kirby presentations.

This leads us into the next prize – previously known as the Collaboration Cup, but in recognition of over 20 years of service to Wycliffe and to highlight the hugely collaborative nature of him as a character, a professional as well as what he has







instilled in so many of the pupils he has worked with, we are renaming this the Chris Guest Collaboration Cup.

The winners of the Chris Guest Collaboration Cup: **Henry Surridge** and **Eishin Arita** for their IAPS Squash team success – U14 National Champions!

The Middle Prep Compassion Cup: **Arabella Perry**

The Upper Prep Compassion Cup: **Isabella Webster**

The fig tree also represents our core value of responsibility. A tree requires care and attention to grow and thrive, just as we all have to take responsibility for our actions and our impact on the world around us. This can be in our social interactions, the choices we make around the environment, sustainable decisions, and the choices we make in our learning and how we are motivated to better ourselves.

In the same way, our Prefect body are a superb group of young people. They are humble, kind, and sometimes very quiet members of our community and have served us well - Thank you to: **Ayesha Menon, Olivia Deshais, Callum McCourt, Mikey Gittins, Ava Lai, Lydia**

**Lui, Daron Ogon-Asu, Emma Barrable, Laurence Williams, Rory Scott, Rose Tangye, Teddy Spurr, William Bengtsson, Abigail Casey, Libby Rowlands, and Eishin Arita.**

Buckley Salver for Service in the Community: This goes to a boy who collaborated with Stroud District council - he wanted to contribute by clearing the towpath and pathways of weeds, litter and identifying areas of fly tipping for Council removal so to improve the local environment between Wycliffe Prep and the Senior School. The award goes to: **Arthur James.**

I would like to say thank you to **Mr Mason** for leading the Boarding Houses, which go from strength to strength. We shall miss his fine eye for detail and his interior design skills! Also

leaving Boarding are the four Resident Graduates – **Miss Bingham, Miss Van Eck, Miss Scott** and **Mr Westlake** – thank you all for your hard work throughout this year and all the best for the future.

Boarding Contribution: **Harry Adams** – for making the biggest transformation of any pupil in Boarding and ending the year with a strong sense of self and who he is.

As ecologists are learning more about trees, we are now clear that each tree is linked to a neighbouring tree by an underground network of fungi that resembles the neural networks in the brain. In one study it is shown that a Douglas fir that insects had injured appeared to send chemical warning signals to a ponderosa pine growing

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nearby. The pine tree then produced defence enzymes to protect against the insect. Similarly, in other studies, trees have been known to share nutrients at critical times to keep each other healthy.

This knowledge that trees share information and respond to the need of the whole forest is teamwork at its best!

Sport is an area where we see teamwork in action on an obvious platform. I would like to make special mention of the incredible talent in our squash players – **Eishin Arita** (Year 8), Winner of the IAPS Championships in Nottingham and all the time done with a smile on his face and with a fantastic

attitude towards the game and others, **Henry Surridge** (Year 8) – Reaching number 4 in England at U13 Level, **George Blenkinsop** (Year 8) reaching the final of the IAPS championships and being selected to represent the South West. The other stand-out player has been **Oakley Jewkes** (Year 7) for being chosen to represent the South West region.

Individual successes both in and out of school to be acknowledged are:

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**Alistair Spurr**, (Year 7) Malvern National XC Champion.

**Sophie Gaskell**, (Year 6) for her athletics - currently 19th fastest in the UK for U13 75m and has been selected

to represent Gloucestershire in the U13G at the Regional Champs at the end of the month in 100m and 200m.

**Darcy Poole** for her athletics commitments outside school – **Mr Trinder** commented on Sports Day that he has never seen someone with such a competitive spirit!

**Holly Jackson** (Year 7) for being picked for the Forest Green Rovers’ girls’ team.

**Georgiana Turner-Wilkes**, (Year 6), Top 20 in the country at IAPS swimming, **Will Papps** (Year 7) and **Josh Cooper** (Year 7). Playing for Cheltenham Town U12 Development Squad.

Congratulations to **Kitty Ashbee** and **Rosa Thomas** who have both been selected to represent Gloucestershire U13 for Netball.

**Teddy Spurr** (Year 8) - who qualified for the Regional XC Championships.

**Olivia Deshais** (Year 8) representing Gloucestershire U14’s for Tennis.

Table Tennis continues to thrive with **Hero He**, **George Dummer**, **Albie James** and **Henry Surridge**

“

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”



representing Gloucestershire in the U13 regional finals. **Tom Hadley** has also impressed, finishing runner-up recently in the Stound U11 Table Tennis Open.

**Seb Dudas-Smith** (Year 6) for his immense downhill mountain biking skill – National Champion in South Africa and now turning his hand to European events.

I would like to thank **Mr Shopland**, our Assistant Director of Sport and separately **Miss Hoskins** who is also moving on, for their time here at Wycliffe and all that they have brought to our Games and Extra Curricular programme.

The Price Cup – for sporting excellence in Games 5 – 8: **Eddie Blenkinsopp**.

Will Hower Cup: Aspire Tomorrow, Inspire Today: **Joseph Staff**.

Warden Girls’ Games Cup – Relationships, excellence, Hard Work, Respect: **Libby Rowlands**.

Bathurst Cup – dedication to sport, a pupil who has led by example, encouraged and wanted to improve: **Evie Westwater**.

AA Robertson Prize for Athletic and Sporting Excellence: **Alistair Spurr**.

Senior Victrix Ludorum – awarded to the highest finishing athlete (girl): **Molly Pettingell**.

Senior Victor Ludorum – Awarded to the highest finishing athlete (boy): **Teddy Spurr**.

Roger Kirby Cup – for a Year 8 who, through their performance, sportsmanship and enthusiasm in practice sessions and matches, have made an outstanding contribution to sport during their time at the Prep School: **Teddy Spurr**.

The Girls’ Games Cup: **Olivia Deshais**.

A tree has a thousand ears in all directions. The munching of caterpillars as they eat holes in leaves, the buzzing of passing bees, the churring of a beetle’s wings, the soft gurgling of water columns breaking inside twigs. Plants can pick up vibrations, and many flowers are shaped like bowls to better trap sound waves, some of which are too high for the human ear. Trees are full of songs, and they are not shy to sing them.

We have three pupils who are in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain – **Lula Turner** (Year 7), **Rowan Cooper** (Year 7) and **Olivia Deshais** (Year 8) - all three sang at the Albert Hall this Easter.

“ I would like to thank Mr Shopland, our Assistant Director of Sport and separately Miss Hoskins who is also moving on, for their time here at Wycliffe and all that they have brought to our Games and Extra Curricular programme. ”



We have had some strong successes this year **Ayesha Menon** (Year 8) achieved her Grade 5 in both violin and piano, and **Sophie Taylor** (Year 6) her Grade 5 recorder.

Musical highlights this year were the Carol Service and the Coronation Concert with standout solos from **Martha Woolley** on the piano, **Lula Turner** on her clarinet and the Senior Choir singing Toto's 'Africa'.

The Wesley Thomas Associated Board Examination Cup: **Sophie Taylor** (first Year 6 to gain a Grade 5).

Macdougall Contribution to Music Cup: jointly awarded **Ayesha Menon** and **Olivia Deshais**.

Greaves Drama Cup outstanding contribution to performing arts in the school: **Abigail Casey**.

Director of Music Choir Prize: **Ava Lai**.

In the Indian state of Meghalaya, the most rain-soaked inhabited place on Earth, the aerial roots of Ficus elastica fig trees into living nets that prevent landslides and living bridges that save lives when monsoon rains turn streams into raging torrents.

Some of these bridges are thought to be centuries old. By contrast, steel suspension bridges last just a few decades. Bangalore-based architect

Sanjeev Shankar says fusing fig roots with steel bridges could create stronger, longer-lasting hybrid structures. He also thinks people in other countries could use the living roots of their own local Ficus species to create structures that build resilience to extreme weather.

Our next set of prizes reflects this in representing innovation and endeavour:

Holroyde Award – contribution to STEM: **George Dummer**.

Environment and Sustainability: **Emma Barrable**.

Creative ICT Cup: **William Bengtsson**.

Price Endeavour Cup for a child in years 3 – 5 who endeavours to make the most of every opportunity: **Polly Jones**.

Endeavour Cup – Year 6 for a pupil for Courage and Endeavour: **Felix Robertson**.

Endeavour Cup – Year 7 for a pupil for Courage and Endeavour: **Jake Young**.

Van Heerden Endeavour Cup Year 8 – overcoming adversity and taking opportunities: **Abigail Casey**.

**The Wycliffian Awards:**

Good Wycliffian Year 6: **Christopher Akpakwu**.

Good Wycliffian Year 7: **Seraphine Mossiman**.

Good Wycliffian Year 8: **Mikey Gittins**

Wycliffe College Salver for the Boy and Girl with the Greatest all-round Contribution. These two pupils have been with us since Year 1 and Year 7. One has taken part in everything possible, from sport to music to drama to being strong academically and having a fantastically positive and mature approach to school. The other has had an extraordinary two years, but I would like to say that he has always stayed true to himself, is an excellent friend to others and upholds Wycliffe values.

Awarded to: **Ayesha Menon** and **Rory Scott**.

The Heads of School for Autumn 2023 are: **Molly Pettingell** and **Theo Fairbrother**.

To the Year 8s – Thank you for everything you have taught us, and we wish you well as you move into Year 9. To all other pupils, we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

*Helena Grant*  
**Helena Grant, Head of Prep**





# MEET THE PREFECTS

Congratulations to these pupils on their appointment as prefects.



Head Boy: **Mikey Gittins**, Head Girl: **Emma Barrable**, Senior Prefects: **Ayesha Menon**, **Rory Scott**, **Laurence Williams**, **Rose Tangye**. Prefects: **Teddy Spurr**, **Lydia Liu**, **William Bengtsson**, **Olivia Deshais**, **Eishin Arita**, **Abigail Casey**, **Callum McCourt**, **Libby Rowlands**, **Ava Lai**, **Daron Ogon-Asu**.





# NURSERY

It has been another busy year for the youngest members of the Wycliffe community.

With the continued support and care of **Mrs Hawes**, **Mrs Holmes** and **Miss Oliver**, the children in Nursery have flourished, developing many new skills and abilities during the first years of their education.

In the Autumn term, their learning was centred around the theme of 'Superheroes'. On day two of term, the children came to school dressed as their favourite superheroes for Superhero Day and enjoyed decorating their own superhero cuffs to wear and take home.

Throughout the term, they could be seen flying around the classroom's

role-play area wearing capes, masks and costumes, saving the planet on a daily basis. They learned about real-life superheroes, including the members of the fire service, NHS and Blood Bike volunteers, all of whom visited school to share their superpowers and how they help people in the community.

Linked to the theme of 'All About Me', the children brought baby photos of themselves into school and discussed how they have changed over the years. Their self-portraits lined the display boards and we all had great fun trying to identify who was who!

The Nursery class learned about a variety of religious festivals throughout the term and, once again, they delighted parents and staff, performing in both the Harvest service and the Pre-Prep Nativity at Christmas. For the first time ever, the pupils, dressed as sheep and angels, stayed on stage for the whole performance, focusing well and delivering their songs in a tuneful manner (well, mostly...)

They were rewarded for their efforts throughout the term with a number of brilliant trips and visits. They loved exploring the nature of Westonbirt Arboretum, listening to stories at



“

They learned about real-life superheroes, including the members of the fire service, NHS and Blood Bike volunteers, all of whom visited school to share their superpowers and how they help people in the community.

”



Quedgeley library and being wowed by Magic Marie the magician at their Christmas party.

In January, the learning focused turned to Amazing Animals. They took on the role of vets in the role-play area and enjoyed many an animal themed craft activity. Pupils shared their favourite animals with the class and worked hard to locate where they might live on a world map.

Most excitably in the spring, the class accompanied all pupils in Pre-Prep on a trip to the Bristol Zoo Project in Bristol, spotting giraffes, bears and meerkats amongst many other amazing creatures throughout the day.

As always, the class were taught about many different celebrations throughout the Spring term. From making coconut ice as a gift on Mother’s Day, designing paper lanterns for Chinese New Year and baking delicious chocolate nests for Easter, the classroom was a hive of activity, creativity and learning.

The summer term in Pre-Prep focused around the theme of Sun, Sea and Sand. Linked to this fun topic, Nursery pupils made crabs using their handprints, jelly fish using paper plates and shimmering fish using mosaic squares.

A huge highlight of the summer term has been seeing these brilliant children

perform on Sports Day. Their hard work in PE lessons with our amazing team of resident graduates really paid off just before half term as they competed in a range of fun and exciting events. Pupils were determined to earn stickers and were duly rewarded with the biggest cheer of the day during their sprint races!





# RECEPTION

This group of children have successfully started their school life together at Wycliffe, taking part in carefully planned but energetically delivered lessons across their busy weekly timetable.

To begin the Autumn Term, **Mrs Bond** somehow managed to link the class learning theme of Superheroes to the Disney film ‘*Encanto!*’ Children planned and prepared an ‘*Encanto!*’-themed party for their Nursery peers to enjoy by writing invitations, baking delicious cakes, and creating colourful flower centre pieces and place cards.

Sticking to the Disney theme, the class wrote labels for their favourite ‘*Frozen*’ characters and spent time as a class sharing thoughts and ideas about Queen Elsa’s best superpowers. This tied in nicely with their scientific learning, and the children could be found exploring ice and it’s properties in one of many hands-on lessons in the classroom.

To end the first half of the Autumn Term, the pupils and their class sang brilliantly in front of a packed audience

“Children planned and prepared an ‘*Encanto!*’-themed party for their Nursery peers to enjoy by writing invitations, baking delicious cakes, and creating colourful flower centre pieces and place cards.”

in the School’s Chapel and at Christmas time, they took to the stage in the Studio Theatre dressed as a mixture of angels, sheep, camels and a star to perform admirably in the Pre-Prep Nativity performance. Each child learned and delivered lines in the show; something we were all extremely proud of them for.

After a well-earned rest over the Christmas period, the Reception class

returned to school to begin learning about amazing animals worldwide. The class role-play area was transformed into a zoo, full of colourful costumes and interesting animal impressions. Throughout the term, they learned fun facts about dinosaurs, discovered all about animal life cycles and even wrote postcards when embarking on a wildlife spotting tour of the Arctic, sending them home for everyone to read.



In French lessons with **Madame Perhirin**, learning focused on the naming of jungle animals and describing these using colours as adjectives.

**Mrs Taylor** even joined in on the act in music lessons, teaching the class animal-themed songs and challenging children to explore animal sounds using their voices and a range of musical instruments.

Reception joined the rest of Pre-Prep on a trip to The Bristol Zoo Project to end the term. They wowed family members during their class assembly, where they shared facts about animals past and present and challenged parents to answer tricky questions as part of an animal-themed quiz show hosted by the infamous **Professor Thor Roos**.

The sunshine over the last months of the year helped children learn about our Summer Term theme of Sun, Sea and Sand. Deckchairs and palm trees filled the classroom; a teaching space full of creativity, determination and, most importantly, lots of laughter.

Pupils explored seashell artwork linked

to the artists **John Miller** and **Grace Albee**, creating their own versions using a range of colourful paints and watercolours. They built sandcastles in their outdoor learning space, splashed around in the water tray and enjoyed many an ice cream and ice lolly. The blue Union Jack ice cream was a clear class favourite during our visit to Winstone's ice cream; a choice that made for a lively minibus journey home for all to enjoy!

To finish the term, the class enjoyed

taking part in both Sports Day and the swimming showcase. Their determination and talents were there for all to see.





# YEAR 1

It has been another busy year for children in Year 1. With the continued support of Miss Davenport, we have worked closely together and focused our learning on a number of amazing themes throughout each term.

The Autumn Term topic invited children to learn about a range of fictional and real-life superheroes. Through a historical lens, they discovered more about super scientists, including **Edward Jenner**, and intrepid explorers such as **Neil Armstrong**. Lessons combined their skills in writing, drawing, and painting and our classroom became a colourful homage to the secret world of those looking to rid of the world of great evil.

Their learning was enriched by a visit from The Adventure Team, an immersive storytelling group that captured the imaginations of the class during Superhero Day. This inspired children to write comic strips, creating fictional superheroes and

engaging stories full of adjectives and onomatopoeia.

Outside of the classroom, children in Year 1 enjoyed visits from both the Fire Service and Blood Bike charity team. They also travelled to Cheltenham Literature Festival for an afternoon with children’s illustrator **Nick Sharrett** and the Roses Theatre

in Tewkesbury to watch the pantomime ‘*Snow White*’ alongside Reception and Year 2. The trip kickstarted the Christmas celebrations in Pre-Prep; celebrations that also included a visit from the Christmas donkey, Christmas Jumper day and the brilliant Nativity performance. Each member of the Year 1 class had a line to deliver on the day,

“

Their learning was enriched by a visit from The Adventure Team, an immersive storytelling group that captured the imaginations of the class during Superhero Day.

”



and they did so with confidence in front of a packed Studio Theatre.

In the spring term, our learning theme switched to Amazing Animals. This brilliant topic captured the imagination of every pupil and inspired them to write non-fiction books about nocturnal animals as well as humorous poetry linked to texts such as 'Oi Frog!' and 'Oi Dog!'

Art lessons with **Mr Stopforth** saw children create brilliant 3D animal clay sculptures and French lessons with **Madame Perhirin** were closely linked to the French text 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear. What can you see?' By **Eric Carle**. Our thematic approach to learning really captured the imaginations of this year group, and their knowledge of animals grew across all areas of the curriculum.

Further highlights included the departmental trip to Wild Place Project Zoo in Bristol, our class assembly linked to animals worldwide, and an international Round Square collaboration with Aubrick School in Brazil and Glenlyon Norfolk School in

Canada. Here, children met pupils from across the globe and discussed what animals were native to their continent. It was an amazing experience for everyone involved.

Our Summer Term was full of exciting opportunities for the class. Under the umbrella of the Sun, Sea and Sand theme, they wrote seaside poetry and recounts in English lessons, created colourful collages in Design and Technology and explored a range of materials used for seaside objects in science lessons alongside Year 2.

Our trip to Weston-Super-Mare saw children playing on the beach, walking along the promenade, and enjoying a picnic whilst the seagulls circled overhead. This trip allowed children to better understand the links between seaside holidays now and in the past, enriching their studies of the Victorian era.

It has been a tasty term too. From fish and chips on the lawn to visits from the icecream van, children have been spoiled with a range of seaside treats at school.





# YEAR 2

The brilliant Year 2 class finished their Pre-Prep after an action-packed year in class with Mr Sinclair and Miss Hobbs.

This group of children, many of whom have been here at Wycliffe since their days in Nursery, are a credit to this department and have matured into pupils we are all very proud of.

The pupils hit the ground running, or should I say flying, as part of our superhero-themed term of learning. Pupils dressed in colourful costumes, studied the life and achievements of many an explorer and created many different pieces of superhero artwork, including an autumn-themed hero using the leaves that had fallen from our trees around the School.

The Harvest Festival in the Senior School Chapel stands out as an event where this class were able to showcase their range of talents in front of an audience. Their class performance of ‘We’ve Got Tomatoes’ was excellent.

As Christmas approached, the class

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This group of children, many of whom have been here at Wycliffe since their days in Nursery, are a credit to this department and have matured into pupils we are all very proud of.

”

prepared to take on the lead roles in our Nativity performance of “Baaarmy” Bethlehem in the Studio Theatre.

**Poppy** and **Rafe** led by example as they took on the roles of Mary and Joseph, and **Emily** was a super narrator throughout. Special mentions must go to the lead sheep **Rascal**, **Cheeky** and **Scamp**, aka **Elsa**, **Zane** and **Tabby**, who had the hardest job of all, controlling the Nursery sheep on stage. They were of course, ably assisted by chief shepherd **Anna** on the day – great job.

As we know, the Spring Term focused on the theme of Amazing Animals, and there were plenty of suitable experiences planned in school to inspire this class. Thanks, **Mrs Jefferson**, for bringing her pet giant tortoise **Big Jeff**, into Pre-Prep for our children to meet.

Year 2 played a key role in our Round Square collaboration, where they had the opportunity to meet with schools around the world, sharing facts they had researched in non-fiction-based



English lessons in class. Their trip to the Zoo in Bristol inspired more writing in class and many a piece of artwork that lined the walls and windows of their colourful classroom.

In the Summer Term, we began looking back at the history of the great British seaside holiday. The learned facts from the Victorian era in Humanities lessons and Science focused on testing materials used for toys played with at the seaside. They, too loved our day out at Weston-Super-Mare, using the sights and sounds of the beach as inspiration for many writing tasks at school.

The class welcomed Paralympic athlete **Rachael Latham** to the School. She taught pupils about what attributes it takes to be a top athlete. Challenged to raise money to support sport in our school, we were all very proud of the efforts by all pupils in Pre-Prep, but in particular **Matilda** who topped the fundraising chart, raising an amazing £240 in total.

Highlights for me have been seeing

**George, Rafe and Myrah** battle it out as part of the 400m race on Sports Day and the class as a whole competing in their very first competitive cricket fixture vs Westonbirt both home and away.

As a reward for this fantastic year, **Mr**

**Sinclair and Miss Hobbs** treated the class to pizza and ice cream to end their time in Pre-Prep. They headed off to Pizza Express in Cirencester to learn about the art of pizza making and took the short minibus journey to Winstone's ice cream, where they enjoyed a tasty treat.





# PRE-PREP PHOTOS





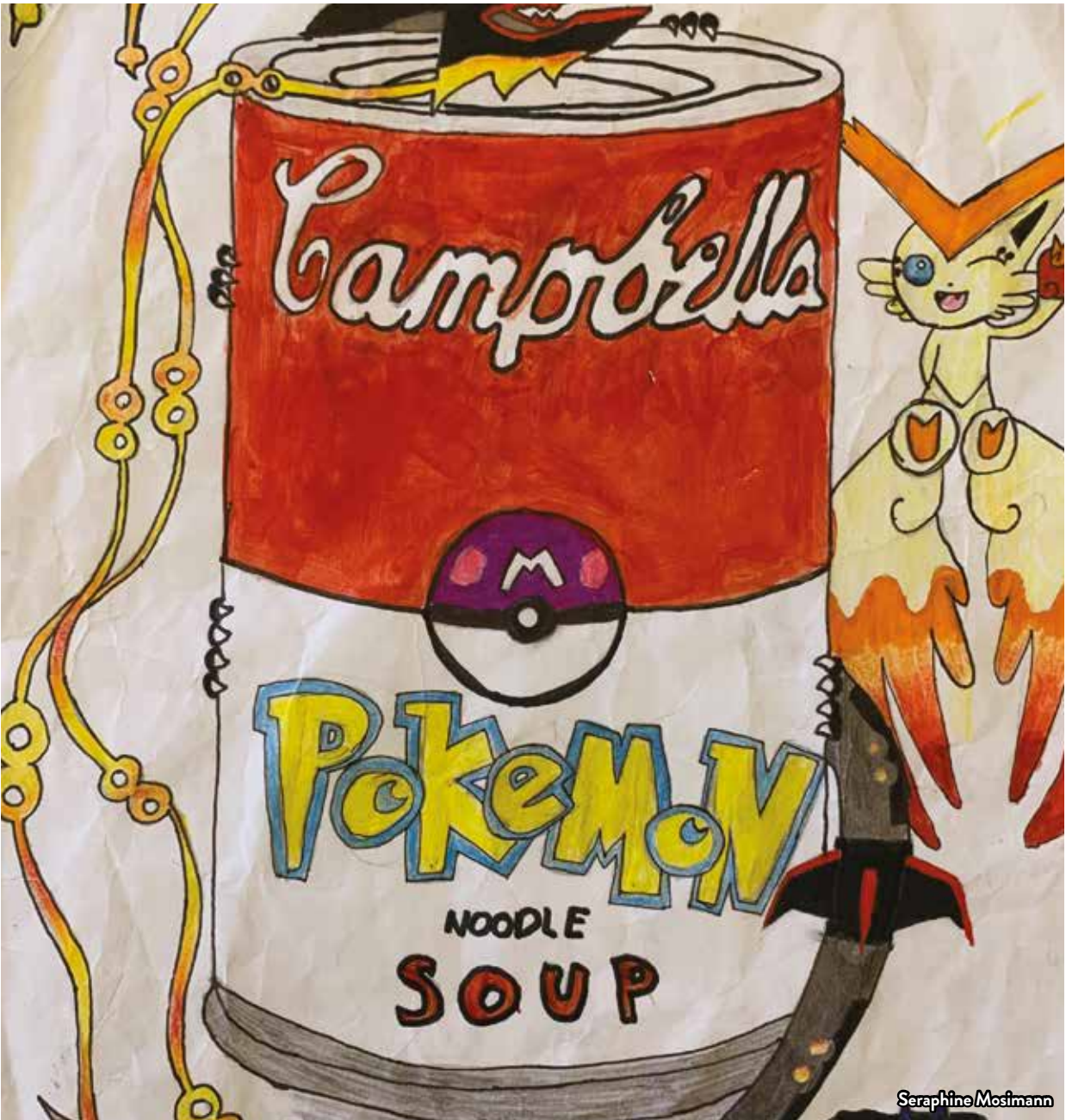




# ART







Seraphine Mosimann



Blake Habbershaw







# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

It has been a very busy year in Design and Technology!

Two Year 6 pupils competed the Knex Challenge final at Renishaw on 21st May. Their challenge was to make a robotic system that sorted three types of recycling. Both girls displayed impressive problem-solving skills, collaboration, and resilience throughout. Well done!

## Marble Run Winners Visit MAD (Mechanical Art & Design)

The eight winners of the marble run competition enjoyed their recent prize: a trip to The Mechanical Art & Design Museum (MAD) in Stratford-Upon-Avon. They experienced around 70 pieces of Kinetic Art and Automata.

Think Heath Robinson mixed with Wallace and Gromit and Scrapheap Challenge! These hands-on exhibits display creative inventiveness, clever design and physics principles, and the pupils enjoyed exploring them.













# DRAMA

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 said it was: “Amazing!” “We worked as a team!” and “It was such fun!” There were moments in the week of rehearsals where a lot of work was needed and the year group had to pull themselves up and keep practising, but

what an outcome! Congratulations to everyone involved!

Just before Easter, Years 5 and 6 transported us to the Pride lands for an incredible ‘*The Lion King*’ production. All the children were superb throughout, featuring some excellent singing and

acting from everyone, from the flea-ridden hyenas supporting the evil Scar to the hilarious Timon and Pumbaa trying to cheer up Simba. Last week, Year 8 pupils performed the musical ‘*Madagascar*’ – a brilliant performance by all and such comedic genius.





# ENGLISH

## 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 pupils 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.





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 at school to learn more about the scheme and take part in their own phonics lesson taught by their child's class teacher.



# GEOGRAPHY

As part of our Year 6 Brazil unit of work, our young geographers had the opportunity to collaborate directly with children at the Aubrick School, Sao Paulo, through the Round Square network.

Our pupils asked environmental, economic, and social geographical questions about Brazil- all shared with the children at the Aubrick School. We were extremely grateful for the reply- a collection of pupil videos to answer our questions. As a thank you, we continued the connection by producing our own Padlet (online platform) to share our geography here in Gloucestershire.

Thank you to **Mrs Tapley**, who led the exchange, and of course, our Year 6 Geographers, who were outstanding ambassadors for the School.







# HISTORY

What a great year it has been teaching History across the Prep School!

There have been so many various topics and exciting trips. Learning about the past is such a lot of fun, and pupils can connect with stories of how people's lives have developed and the changes they went through, especially when compared to our own.

In the autumn term, Year 6 pupils enjoyed an afternoon behaving as Victorians, with a mean Victorian teacher, namely **Mr Arman!** The Year 7s prepared and lived out the 1066 Battle of Hastings outside. This contained great excitement and battle tactics. Their homemade shields were in tatters by the end, though! In the spring term, the Year 5 pupils took a three-day trip to York to improve their understanding of the Viking age. Re-enactment again took centre stage, bringing to life how Vikings lived through various real jobs and tasks. Also, the Year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to see the SS Great Britain docked in Bristol. In the summer term, pupils in Year 6 experienced a 1960s party and listened to accounts

from the past about this period and how it affected children. Pupils even had time in Years 7 and 8 to learn how

to answer a historical question through essay writing. Undoubtedly, it has been a rewarding year in so many ways.

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Learning about the past is such a lot of fun, and pupils can connect with stories of how people's lives have developed and the changes they went through, especially when compared to our own.

”



# MATHEMATICS

In the Spring term, Pre-Prep took part in the NSPCC Number Day.

They were encouraged to come to school wearing number badges! They started the day with a fun assembly led by Mrs Curtis, where pupils began to explore the Fibonacci

sequence and enjoyed talking about their favourite numbers! After this, they completed a selection of different activities, which included making musical rhymes.

Among other activities, Nursery made dotty butterflies, Reception did flower puzzles, and Years 1 and 2 did Fibonacci characters!

## Pi Day

On Pi Day, 14th March, **Mrs Curtis** led an assembly that introduced Years 3 to 8 to all sorts of fascinating facts about Pi and how it appears everywhere in the world around us. In particular as Pi is an irrational number and goes on forever, the last message you sent over text or social media, will appear in Pi somewhere (i.e. letters converted to digits)! Crazy! Some tutor groups also became involved in memorising Pi competitions. The Wycliffe record is still held by **Charley Thomas**, from March 2019 (when aged 10) recited Pi

to 258 places on live TV, ‘Good Morning Britain’.

## World Maths Day

Wycliffe celebrated World Maths Day with a Scavenger Hunt around the School this year. Pupils hunted high and low, inside, and outside, for pre-existing maths that had been “snapped” for them. When these were found, there were letters next to them, ready for them to complete some Maths puzzles and match up answers to spell out a mathematical word! Phew! There were different levels of puzzles for Years 3 to 4, 5 to 6 and 7 to 8. Many pupils

participated, either as part of their lessons or at break time and lunch time with their friends. All correct entries were entered into a draw with a winner for each age group. The Winners of some fabulous Mathematical Puzzle books were **Teyo McBurney** (Year 7), **Sammy Hughes** (Year 5) and **Iris Oytaben** (Year 3). Well done to everyone who took part!

## It's a Knockout Quiz

The annual Wycliffe Mental Maths Challenge, It's A Knockout, took place in May of this year. This year, **Mrs Curtis** shook things up by transforming







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The victory was extra sweet for Tom, as he had taken part last year, when in Year 5, but had been narrowly beaten by Thomas Cox in Year 8. The final three received Amazon gift cards, and Tom also received the Mental Maths Salver on Speech Day.

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it into a House Competition. That meant there were four competitors (one for each House) from Years 5 to 8. The competitors for Lincoln were **Chris Akpakwu** (standing in for Year 5 but Year 6), **Matilda Lane** (Year 6), **Holly Jackson** (Year 7) and **William Bengtsson** (Year 8). For Scott: **Brandon Lovewell** (Year 5), **Tom Hadley** (Year 6), **Seraphine Mossiman** (Year 7) and **Eishin Arita** (Year 8). For Grenfell: **Tay Bigger** (Year 5), **Alex Bailey** (Year 6), **Isla Egan** (Year 7) and **Henry Surridge** (Year 8). For Shaftesbury: **Oliver Wilkinson** (Year 5), **Monti Carse** (Year 6), **Molly Pettingell** (Year 7) and **Abigail Casey** (Year 8). Each competitor had two ‘lives’, but also had “Ask a Housemate” (who had still been “in” the game). When they got a question correct, they could nominate the next person to answer a question. The competition was very intense,

with the whole school enthralled and behind their House’s competitors. The questions were random, which meant a Year 5 could be asked a Year 8 question, and vice versa! The final three pupils were **William Bengtsson** (Year 8) for Lincoln, **Abigail Casey** (Year 8) for Shaftesbury, and **Tom Hadley** (Year 6) for Scott. Sadly, Grenfell’s team had already been eliminated. William was next to go out, leaving two brave and talented Mathematicians, Abigail and Tom, to fight it out! After a fantastic head-to-head, Tom was victorious! All the ‘Scotties’ in the hall were very happy! The victory was extra sweet for Tom, as he had taken part last year, when in Year 5, but had been narrowly beaten by **Thomas Cox** in Year 8. The final three received Amazon gift cards, and Tom also received the Mental Maths Salver on Speech Day. The final standings for the House Competition

part were 4th: Grenfell, 3rd: Lincoln, 2nd: Shaftesbury and 1st: Scott.

## UKMT Primary Maths Challenge

In the Autumn Term, Maths Set 1 for Year 5 and Year 6, went to the Senior School to participate in the UKMT Primary Maths Challenge. After some warmup problem-solving with **Mr Finebaum**, they got stuck into the tricky challenge. All those that took part were fantastic and received a Certificate of Participation.

A special mention goes to:

**Awarded Bronze:** **Brandon Lovewell** (Year 5), **Rawdon Dickinson** (Year 5), **Chris Akpakwu** (Year 6), **Alex Bailey** (Year 6), **Monti Carse** (Year 6), **Seb Heath** (Year 6) and **Georgiana Turner-Wilkes** (Year 6).

**Awarded Silver:** **Matilda Lane**, **Darcy Poole** and **Corey Sharpe**.

**Awarded Gold:** **Tom Hadley** and **Daniel Williams**. Tom and Daniel were also awarded joint ‘Best in School’.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

In the Summer Term, Maths Set 1 for Year 7 and Year 8, and a few Set 2s took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The questions were very difficult and stretched our pupil’s brains in different ways. These were not just about how well our pupils knew the curriculum they had been taught; their brain could work out problems. All those who took part did brilliantly and received a Certificate of Participation. A special mention goes to the following:

**Awarded Bronze:** **Theo Farebrother** (Year 7), **Albie James** (Year 7), **Hugo James** (Year 7), **Abigail Casey** (Year 8), **Olivia Deshais** (Year 8), **Hero He** (Year 8), **Isabella Maida-Doyle** (Year 8), **Teddy Spurr** (Year 8), **Rubie Watts** (Year 8) and **Charlie Woollard** (Year 8).

**Awarded Silver:** **George Dummer** (Year 8).

**Awarded Gold:** **Molly Pettingell** (Year 7).

George Dummer was also awarded ‘Best in Year’ for Year 8, while Molly Pettingell was awarded ‘Best in Year’ for Year 7 and ‘Best in School’. Some amazing performances!

## Mathematics Quiz Club

In the Summer Term, Wycliffe entered 3 teams into the Area Heats of the Mathematics Quiz Club. The three teams were each made up of two Year 6s and two Year 5s. Team selection was done by an internal selection quiz with the top performing 6 from each Year group chosen. The 3 teams were as follows:

**Tom Hadley** (Year 6), **Matilda Lane** (Year 6), **Brandon Lovewell** (Year 5) and **Oliver Wilkinson** (Year 5).

**Chris Akpakwu** (Year 6), **Corey Sharpe**

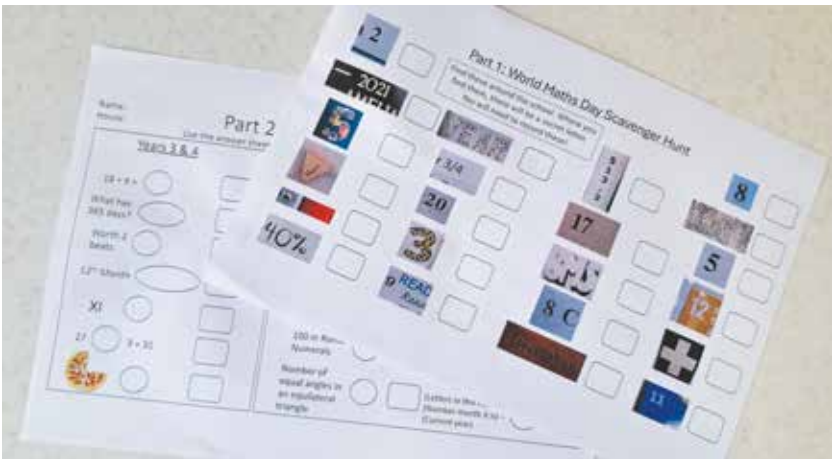
(Year 6), **Edward Hill** (Year 5) and **Sammy Hughes** (Year 5).

**Monti Carse** (Year 6), **Daniel Williams** (Year 6), **Sylvie Digby** (Year 5) and **Lewis Sandison** (Year 5).

All three teams worked fantastically as a team under the time pressure with tricky problems to solve. It didn’t help that there were some technological glitches along the way too! We were excited to learn that one of our teams had made it through to the Semi-Final.

A few weeks later, Chris, Corey, Edward and Sammy competed in the Semi-Final. They competed alongside teams from all over the country and did well but, unfortunately did not progress any further.

Well done to all of our brilliant mathematicians!







# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In September, we were fortunate to have **Steve Eadon** from Mingalaba, who came to speak to our Year 7 and 8 pupils about the job opportunities given to those who learn and speak languages. Steve talked to us about his journey from a reluctant learner of German at school to working for Arsenal Football Club. This experience gave him that extra 'edge' that Arsenal was looking for. During his time at the club, he used his skills to promote languages whilst working with famous football players. Years 7 and 8 could ask him about his career at the club.

'It was fun because languages are important in the football world.'  
**Albie**, Year 7.

'He said how learning languages can

help you later in life.'  
**Austin**, Year 7.

'I thought it was cool that if you do a language at university, you get to study in a country that speaks the language. I enjoyed making my animal football team.'  
**Molly**, Year 7.

'It was fun to learn about languages in the way of football and learning where

languages can take you.'  
**Michelle**, Year 7.

'It has encouraged me to do languages to have an interesting job and career.'  
**Teddy**, Year 8.

'He spoke about how languages changed his life as he could coach for his favourite team.'  
**Blake**, Year 8.

“

In September, we were fortunate to have Steve Eadon from Mingalaba, who came to speak to our Year 7 and 8 pupils about the job opportunities given to those who learn and speak languages.

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## Discovery Programme

### Auspicious Beginning

In the context of our Saturday Discovery programme coinciding with the Lunar New Year, Year 7s spent three mornings discovering different aspects of Chinese culture; the New Year celebrations and its myths, legends and philosophy, Chinese medicine, calligraphy and food! We finished with a workshop on traditional dances, including a dragon dance.



### Year 7 Breakfast

As a treat, **Madame Perhirin** organised a French Breakfast to celebrate her pupil's effort and resilience. They were rewarded with French pastries, baguettes and hot chocolate in the dining hall.

"My French set got a lovely treat when Madame Perhirin took us for a delicious French Breakfast. We had wonderful music in the background, and we learnt that you drink hot chocolate from a bowl and dunk your baguette in it! Thank you so much." **Lula T**



### Year 8 Spanish

Year 8 pupils studying Spanish tried new food and a new way of eating at Tierra y Mar tapas restaurant in Cirencester.

Meat, fish or vegetarian paella were the main courses, but the favourite

dish was dessert – churros with melted chocolate!

The serving staff spoke only in Spanish, explaining what the dishes were made of, and in return, the pupils thanked them and complimented them on the food in Spanish.

"I thought the food and the experience were great. I learned to say "You're welcome" and "Thank you so much" in Spanish. The people who served us were really friendly and kind. Nothing more would have made it better, so from me, it got five stars. **Hanya L B**





French

Penfriend Exchange

By Ellie M, Year 7

Year 6 and Year 7 pupils participated in a penfriend exchange with pupils at 'La Salle Igny' school near Paris this year. They exchanged letters and stories and did a pallet.

“I enjoyed writing to my penfriend. I loved it when we received our pen pal’s letters. My penfriend said many things about herself then we had to write back to them. We had to write about ourselves in French.”



Year 8 German

By Emma B, Year 8

Year 8 German learners visited the Bristol Christmas market and enjoyed Christmas cheer! They all had a typical German sausage and

participated in a treasure hunt.

“I loved the German trip; it was great because we had the freedom to go around. We had a bratwurst each and worked as a team on the treasure hunt.”

Spelling Bee

In our first-ever Spelling Bee, some pupils from Years 7 and 8 competed with each other to spell the most words in French, Spanish or German correctly to win it for their House. They had to do it in one minute.

“Madame Perhirin organised a French Spelling Bee competition for years 7 and 8 this year. I found the experience an amazing opportunity and am excited to do it again next year. It was hard but fun.”

Molly P.



# MUSIC

This academic year has been a very busy one for the Music Department.

Every child from Nursery to Year 8 has had specialist music teaching from **Mrs Taylor**, and our incredible team have continued to deliver excellent one-to-one tuition for so many of our pupils.

## Ensembles

Our ensembles have been very successful this year. The Senior Choir is finally back to pre-covid strength and rounded off Speech Day with an incredible performance of *'Rhythm of Life'*.

## Concerts

It was beautiful to be back in the Chapel for the Remembrance Service

and the Carol Service. These are extraordinary moments in our musical calendar, and the Senior Choir led the singing beautifully at both. **Mrs Cooper** conducted the Middle Prep Choir for the final time at the Carol Service, and we had many beautiful

solos, most notably **Olivia Deshais** singing *'Once in Royal'*.

We've had several lovely lunchtime concerts featuring a wide range of musicians from Year 3 to Year 8 and from beginners to our most experienced musicians. We've seen more of our

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”



own compositions being performed this year, which is terrific, and pupils regularly join forces to perform duets and small ensemble items.

In the Summer term, we hosted a fabulous Coronation Concert featuring the Orchestra, Senior Choir and Senior Ensemble, as well as a lovely selection of solo items from our Music Scholars, Music Subject Leaders, and overall House Music winners.

## House Music

House music was a huge success. Every child in the Middle and Upper Prep had the opportunity to get involved in some way, whether it was performing in solo classes or singing in the fiercely fought House Song. **Mrs Russell** was our amazing adjudicator for the day. She enjoyed watching all the solo performances, though she admitted there were many tough decisions to make!

The results were:

Best overall Junior performance  
– **Niamh Pettingell.**

Best overall Junior contribution  
– **Sylvie Digby.**

Best overall Senior performance  
– **Olivia Deshais.**

Best overall Senior contribution  
– **Sophie Taylor.**

House Song 1st place – **Shaftesbury.**

House Music Winners – **Grenfell.**





# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies has a broad remit, and discussion is at the heart of developing and challenging ideas and viewpoints.

The knowledge and content covered across each year group is broad and covers various religious and non-religious views. Pupils are given space to share their perspectives, listen to others, and then reconsider their ideas. Religious stories can bring out themes of how we should live our lives, be thoughtful and bring a sense of awe and wonder. In Year 5, pupils investigated where the Bible came from and then studied Buddhist and Jewish beliefs and worship. Class lessons challenged pupils, helping them gain new perspectives on these religious practices.

Year 6 pupils enjoyed Hindu stories, followed by how religions use the arts to express themselves. They also considered what people of faith believe

happens when people die.

In Year 8, pupils discussed miracles and also whether near-death experiences reveal the idea of an afterlife. These are just some rich topics pupils can learn about and discuss. In the spring term, subject leaders in Year 7 and Year 8 went to the Birmingham Central Mosque to discover how people of the Islamic faith worship and what they

believe. It gave them all a massive sense and understanding of this faith and was a worthwhile experience. In Year 7, **Rowan Cooper** entered the essay competition held by ISRA (Independent Schools Religious Association), considering whether 'religion makes you less selfish', and the judges commended his effort. Overall, a great year of study and investigation.

“

Religious stories can bring out themes of how we should live our lives, be thoughtful and bring a sense of awe and wonder.

”





# SCIENCE

During STEM Saturday, Year 8 pupils learnt about principles of flight with an RAF engineer and made balsa kit gliders.

Pupils had the opportunity to talk to an engineer who has worked on Airbus and with Dowty.

In Science, Year 3 and 4 pupils learnt about electricity, and built simple series circuits. They learnt that a circuit needs to have a power source, wires and must be a complete, unbroken circuit, to

work. They then experimented with a range of components like motors and noisy buzzers!

Year 8 pupils willingly dissected an eyeball as part of their topic on Light. They explored the internal sections, including the vitreous humour and the lens.





# SCIENCE WEEK

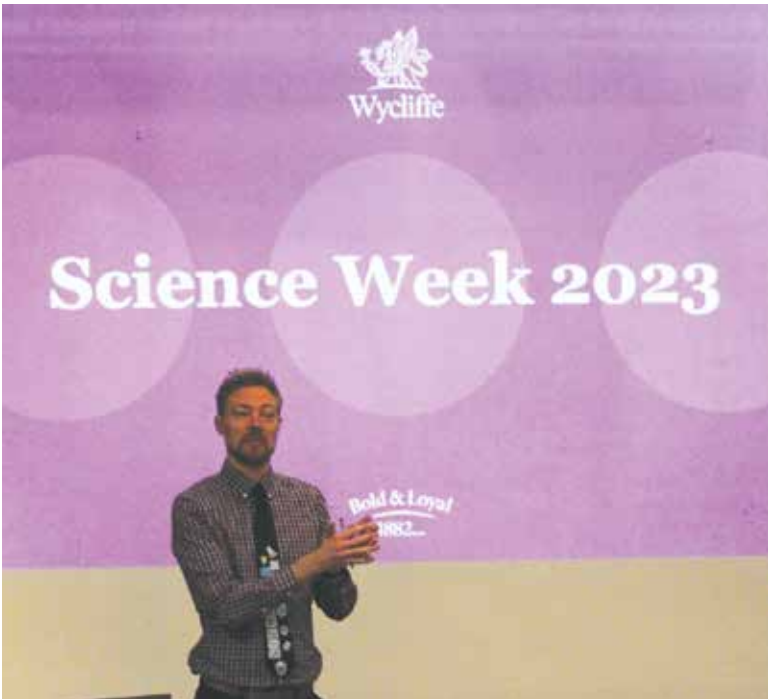
Prep pupils were immersed in the science world, with different activities to celebrate Science Week.

The week began with an assembly by **Mr Holroyde** where two pupils walked along eggs without them breaking! Years 3 to 8 listened to different talks led by parents that have STEM related careers. The talks were on Radiography and Forensic Science and developmental Chemistry.

On Wednesday, Reception to Year 5 pupils watched science demonstrations by Mr Holroyde, where they then had to try and figure out how the experiments worked. To further promote Science Week, Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to feel the organs and contents of a pig's digestive

system! This is a chance to bring to life what they have been learning about from diagrams and manikins. Pupils learnt about the functions and form of the organs in a more hands-on and smelly approach!





“

To further promote Science Week, Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to feel the organs and contents of a pig's digestive system!

”











# WORLD BOOK DAY AND WYCLIFFE LITERATURE FESTIVAL

On 2nd and 3rd March, we marked World Book Day and held the Wycliffe Literature Festival.

As well as pupils dressing up as their favourite characters, Prep pupils enjoyed a book-tasting event in the library, a used book sale, and a readathon. They also participated in a 'guess the bookcase competition' and the highly contested 'dress the (tutor room) door competition'. On 3rd March, pupils in Pre-Prep welcomed author **Lindsey Cole** to School. Lindsey shared her fictional tale *'The Mermaid and the Whale'* with children from

Nursery to Year 2. To end the day, children enjoyed listening to stories read by parents and grandparents of pupils in the department. This was a lovely end to a brilliant literacy-themed day. Spoz, an acclaimed performance poet, delivered an entertaining assembly to Prep pupils and workshops with different year groups throughout the day. In Senior School, there was a fantastic Inter-house cake-baking competition. It was a great success

with some wonderfully creative entries, particularly from Ivy Grove, who stole the show. Lauren E James, author, script editor, and founder of the Climate Fiction Writers, gave a STEM-based talk to Year 9 pupils and led a workshop on the theme of writing diversely with Year 12 and 13 English pupils.

What a wonderful Book Day we had.

# FOREST SCHOOL

The aim of Forest School is to support the development of the relationship between children and the natural world, providing them with the space and environment in which to explore and discover.

At the start of the academic year pupils in Forest School collected blackberries, picked pears, apples and plums from the trees, and observed the changes in the seasons and colours. They were creative too, painting leaves, sticks and trees using autumnal colours and using clay and natural resources to make animals and tree faces.

Year 3 enjoyed their Forest School trip to Copsegrove Farm. The day had an 'Italy and the Romans' theme, relating to this term's humanities topic. In teams, the children made their own woodland frames and then created a Roman mosaic inside using natural items found in the woods; they

completed a scavenger hunt, looking for Roman Gods and Goddesses hidden around the woodland; they were challenged, in teams, to build their own Roman aqueducts and tested them by transporting water from the top of the

woodland to the bottom! On top of this they made, cooked and devoured their own Copsegrove Calzones! Of course, a forest school trip is not complete without s'mores around the fire, so rest assured, these featured too!





# WELLBEING

During the School year, every tutor group has had at least one session of Wellbeing during their Life Skills lesson.

## Empathy Day

Empathy is one of our core values, and so we joined author **Cath Howe** for a conversation about how we learn, experience and develop our empathy skills through writing and reading stories. Well done to the Year 5s, who got several shout-outs and participated in the presentation!



## Polo proves to be a huge hit!

Our extra-curricular option, Polo, has been a massive hit again this year, with many children playing weekly. There has been a real switch in the number of pupils that have taken up Polo who have never seen a horse before, never mind ridden one. Some of our pupils with low confidence have been transformed — they get on a pony, and you see a complete change. One pupil had never seen or touched a horse before, and by the end of the

lesson, they wrapped their arms around it — it was very moving.

“Some of our pupils with low confidence have been transformed — they get on a pony, and you see a complete change.”



# ROUND SQUARE

Last year, Wycliffe College was delighted to be accepted as a global member of Round Square, an international network of over 230 like-minded schools in 50 countries.

Round Square schools collaborate on teaching and learning programmes, courses and initiatives, connecting pupils with their peers in other countries through collaboration; sharing learning resources; and participating in joint activities such as conferences, exchanges and academic projects. One example is the collaborative work that pupils have undertaken with Trivandrum School in Kerala, India. This has included the planting of trees at both schools in a project associated with the Environmental Ideal. Fundraising is also an important part of Round Square. Recently, pupils held a cake and Turkish tea sale, raising nearly £400 for the Disaster Emergency Committee undertaking rescue efforts in Syria and

Turkey. The 54th Round Square Global International Conference will take place in Kenya in October 2023. Brookhouse School in Nairobi are hosting the conference, providing a platform for schools globally to explore the ways in which Africa is defining its position in the 21st Century. Older pupils can

attend the conference, staying with Brookhouse families and experience African hospitality first-hand. The Round Square flag flies proudly here on campus: we are thrilled to be a member school and incredibly excited by the future opportunities Round Square has to offer our pupils.

“  
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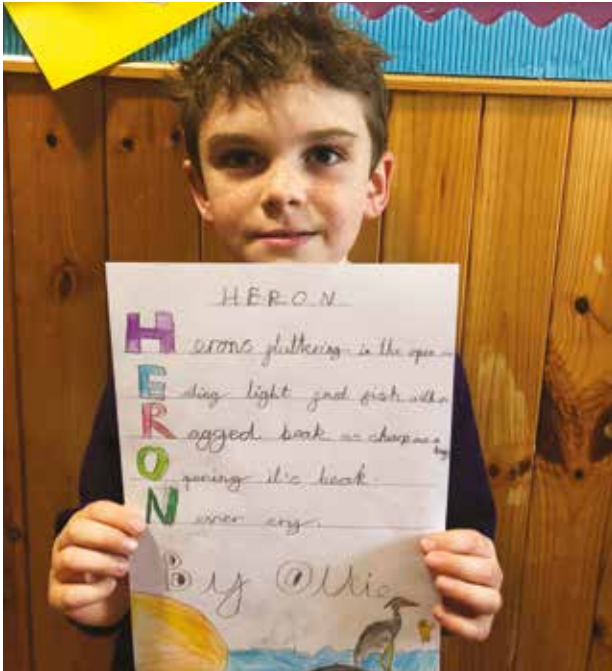


Friends From Around the World

In collaboration with Round Square, Wycliffe pupils in Years 1 and 2 met with children from Ubrick School in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Glenlyon Norfolk School in

Victoria, Canada, to discuss animals worldwide. Children shared facts about animals native to their continent and answered questions from other pupils. It was an excellent experience for all involved.





# 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?”





# YEAR 8 CAREERS MORNING

We recently welcomed three OWs back to school to speak to Year 8 pupils about their career journeys.

**Emily Hughes, Lewis Rawlinson** and **Iskander Fakhritdinov** discussed their time at Wycliffe and their career paths. Their talks covered home working, developing passions into a career, changing career direction, work-life balance, and much more.

Following this, pupils participated in activities that enabled them to imagine their future selves in different roles and consider their current interests and skills.





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

**The Extra-curricular life of the School has continued to flourish, with the pupils taking part in a wealth of opportunities.**

The year culminated with our Upper Prep pupils embarking on their residential trips, all of which were closely linked to ‘water’ and various challenges and activities as our pupils immersed themselves in every sense of the word.

Year 6 pupils visited Croft Farm near Tewkesbury, having a go at a range of land and water-based activities, such as paddle boarding, windsurfing, katanuig, climbing and archery. Year 7 pupils visited the OA Surf Centre in Widemouth Bay, Cornwall, for some surfing and canoeing whilst spending time enjoying stunning landscape and

sea views as they explored the beach and walks in the local area.

Our Year 8s enjoyed what is, for many, a real highlight of their time at the Prep, with a visit to the Brecon Beacons to undertake a range of challenging activities with the Black Mountain Activity Centre. The pupils experienced a full day of canoeing down the River Wye, mountain biking, land carting, orienteering, and attempting the high ropes course, complete with a leap of faith and zip wire, before taking themselves out of their comfort zone with a fabulous day of gorge walking, including jumping into pools of water

from heights of up to 22 feet. Years 4 and 5 were also taken on their own residential throughout the year. Year 4 visited the working Farm in Hooke Court in Dorset, mixing education around the farm and local land with a range of activities, whilst Year 5 visited the living history city of York as part of their study of the Vikings, in which they were archaeologists at DIG, dressed as, and learnt the ways of the Vikings at Murton Park, and visited the renown Jorvik Museum to help bring the past to life.

Alongside our residential offering, there has been a range of educational and



enriching day trips for our pupils to enjoy. Years 3 to 5 visited Copsegrove Farm for their much loved Forest School Days, whilst Year 6 visited the Waterways Museum as part of their geographical study of settlement and the SS Great Britain as part of their study into the Victorians. Year 7 visited Chepstow Castle as part of their historical studies, whilst Year 8 were given the opportunity to ride the waves on the artificial surf reef at The Wave in Bristol. All year groups have also taken part in the challenge of Expedition Days, including caving and abseiling for Year 8, Mojo Active for Year 7, Pedalabikeaway for Year 6, Ninja Warrior for Year 5, and treasure trails and a visit and workshop at Stonehenge for our Year 3 and 4's. Enrichment has also been aplenty in school, with Stem Works once again running their K'nex workshops for Years 5 and 6, and Year 6 enjoying a visit from the History Squad, in addition to the eagerly anticipated annual Battle of Hasting re-enactment for our Year 7s. The extra-curricular offering has dovetailed within our Saturday Discovery Programme, including the Capoeira workshop for Year 6 and the Samba Band sessions in Year 7.

Our extra-curricular club's programme has continued to build and offer our pupils the chance to discover something new or focus more on sports and activities they enjoy. The Thursday Activities programme has given the opportunity to explore a range of options from little chef to archaeology and flower pressing to Lego. Once



again, the Courtroom Drama, prepared in the Thursday Activity slot, was a real success, as a group of Year 8 pupils brought to life a real historical criminal case in Gloucester Crown Court. The school's after-school club programme also continued to evolve, with table tennis and the Yoto Carnegie Book Shadowing Club being offered alongside a range of other opportunities, from art to basketball and swimming to chess.

Concerning our creative extra-curricular offering, our pupils have once again expressed their musical, dramatic, and artistic talents in various ways. The standard of musicianship at both our joint Prep and Senior School Teatime concert and our Coronation Concert was incredible, whilst Music and Drama combined through all of our school productions, such as Year 3 and 4's beautifully presented Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, Years

5 and 6 produced an atmospheric Lion King, Year 7 was full of humour and positivity as they performed Shrek, and Year 8 brought energy and flair though their production of Madagascar. The House Music competition saw a whole day dedicated to a series of individual and collective musical classes, with the pinnacle being the house song competition, bringing rhythm, energy, fun and no shortage of competitive spirit. Within our Art offering, **Mr Stopforth**, in his final year, has continued to inspire our pupils, both within and outside of his curriculum lessons. Our 'Into the Heart of Art' days have given pupils the opportunity to explore in depth a variety of artistic themes and styles, whilst our Round Square art collaboration, titled 'Grand Horizons', created with six other schools across the UK, India and Pakistan, now hangs proudly in the foyer to Etheridge Hall.



“Enrichment has also been aplenty in school, with Stem Works once again running their K'nex workshops for Years 5 and 6, and Year 6 enjoying a visit from the History Squad, in addition to the eagerly anticipated annual Battle of Hasting re-enactment for our Year 7s.”







# EXPEDITION WEEK

This June, Year 8s enjoyed a week in the Brecon Beacons to celebrate the end of the year through various great activities run by Black Mountains Adventure.

The main highlights were team building, high ropes, river canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, and the infamous

gorge walking. The pupils had to push themselves beyond their comfort zone, which was great to see. They all had a

tremendous time, making it one of the year's highlights.





# SPORT



## Cross Country

A dreary day, but nothing dreary about the energy and spirit of the runners for the Inter-House Cross Country. Followed by hot chocolate and cookies! Well done all - resilience, support for each other and great humour.

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 around 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 around, 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. It was a wonderful whole school Cross Country event that will run again in the Spring Term.





## Strength and Conditioning

Pupils from Years 3 to 8 had an introductory Strength and Conditioning session from our new Head of Strength and Conditioning, **Mr Trinder**. The sessions have focused on fundamental movement patterns and speed mechanics, all easily transferable to their Games options. It's great to be able to have Mr Trinder working with all athletes across the entire College.

“

The sessions have focused on fundamental movement patterns and speed mechanics, all easily transferable to their Games options.

”

## Table Tennis

Table Tennis has really taken off this year, with several pupils enjoying coaching sessions and a number of notable achievements. In January, the U13 team of **George Dummer**, **Hero He**, **Henry Surridge** and **Albie James** represented Gloucestershire as team champions in the Zone Final held in Walsall. Although the team did not progress from the event, they made real strides forward and have improved notably since the start of the year. Building on this, several of our pupils have competed in the Stroud Junior League, which concluded in June. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed playing competitively, in which one of the Wycliffe teams finished the league as Champions.

Congratulations go to **George Dummer** and **Hero He** for their 1st place finish. The core team of **George Blenkinsop**, **Eddie Blenkinsop**, **Tom Hadley**, **Albie James**, **Hero He** and **George Dummer**



are pictured below, whilst **Daniel Williams** and **Tsibu Mensah-Annan** were also part of the team. The final notable success of the year went

to **Tom Hadley**, who finished as the Under 11 runner-up at Stroud Junior Closed Tournament, held at the Senior School.



## Hockey & Rugby

**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.



## Cricket







## Football tournament makes history

For the first time in Wycliffe history, we added a Girls' Football Tournament to run alongside our annual 6-a-side Football Tournament. Teams from all over the Southwest came on site to play the game.

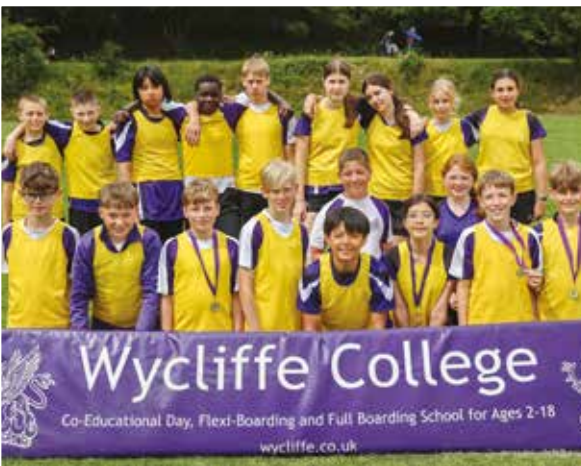
**Mr Arman's** Colts A team took home the trophy after beating Dean Close St John's with a deserved 1-0 victory.

Our girls also performed admirably in their first tournament, finishing 2nd to a strong Tockington Manor team. Next year, we hope to add U11 Girls to make the event even more successful.



## House Sport

This term has seen pupils across all year groups compete in their Houses for the title for House Champions. An incredibly tight display across all Senior Netball and Football have led to the following results: Senior House Football winners – Shaftesbury; Senior House Netball winners - Lincoln.









# SPORTS DAY

After the postponement of Sports Day one, we were met with favourable weather conditions, highly competitive races, exceptional parent support, a vibrant atmosphere, an engaging house competition, and a strong pioneering spirit that made it an outstanding day for all participants in the second rendition of Sports Day.

Sports Day featured a series of highly competitive races showcasing the participants' athletic talents and abilities. The pupils, from different age groups and Houses, displayed remarkable speed, agility, and determination. The races included sprints, relay races, long-distance runs, and various other track and field events. The level of competition was intense, and the participants pushed themselves to the limit, displaying exceptional sportsmanship throughout. The races were closely contested, providing excitement, and cheering from spectators and participants. Performances of the day came from

**Issy Webster**, who broke the Girls Inters Vortex record, **Ali S**, who broke a record from 1994 in the Inter Boys 800m, **Sophie G** set a new time and new record of 13.88 in the Inter Girls 100m, and **Callum H** beat a former Vortex record by 20m.

The unwavering support and involvement of parents, family members and guardians throughout the day was truly inspiring. Tily Field was filled with enthusiastic parents and family members who cheered on their children with utmost pride and encouragement. Cheers, applause, and words of encouragement echoed

throughout the venue, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. The participants showcased a sense of unity and camaraderie, cheering for their fellow house members and displaying exceptional sportsmanship. The lively atmosphere fostered an environment of motivation, pushing the participants to strive for their personal best whilst enjoying the spirit of healthy competition.

Pupils also competed for their House. The four Houses competed against each other in various events and races, earning points based on their performances. This friendly rivalry



added an extra layer of excitement and camaraderie as pupils cheered for their housemates and worked together to secure victory. The Heads of Houses played a huge part in allocating pupils to events and enjoyed the highs and lows throughout the day as results came in.

Sports Day 2023 was an exceptional event that celebrated the pupils' talents, sportsmanship, and pioneering spirit. The favourable weather conditions provided an ideal backdrop for the highly competitive races and showcased the participants' athletic abilities. The unwavering support and involvement of parents further added to the success of the event, fostering a sense of community and encouragement. The vibrant atmosphere, coupled with the engaging house competition, created

an environment of camaraderie and healthy competition.

In the Junior competition, Lincoln topped a tight pool leading the way with 178 points, Grenfell in second place with 170, followed by Shaftesbury and Scott in third and fourth. The Inters were led by Shaftesbury, with Scott, Grenfell and Lincoln in second, third and fourth, respectively. The

Seniors stepped up in the afternoon, and Shaftesbury continued their fine form winning the Senior Competition, Scott second with Grenfell and Lincoln third and fourth. The overall results were Lincoln in fourth with 519 points, Grenfell in third with 536 points, and Scott in second with 574, meaning Shaftesbury were the winner of Sports Day 2023 with 637 points.

“  
The Heads of Houses played a huge part in allocating pupils to events and enjoyed the highs and lows throughout the day as results came in.

”







# Pre-Prep Sports Day

Pre-Prep Sports Day saw pupils joined by their parents for a beautiful afternoon on Tiley Field. While children demonstrated their recently acquired skills, parents also enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea!







# GRENFELL HOUSE

By Mr Sinclair

Grenfell has been fantastic again!

It has been a tough term for the happy houseful of Grenfellians, but, as always, they have met every challenge with enthusiasm, camaraderie and a smile on their faces. Whether it has been the inter-house Swimming event or giving it everything on the track for Sports Day, the team spirit of Grenfell cannot be faulted. Notable individuals include **Phoebe Harris**, leading the swimming team, despite being unable to swim herself; **Mikey Gittins**, the only Year 8 boy to swim on the day for the event;

**Tay Bigger** swapping events moments before they were due to take place, to allow others to compete, and then stepping up to anchor both 100m relay races and **Madeline Francis** going above and beyond, at the last moment, to take on the 1500m race for the team. There have been so many examples of this amazing attitude throughout the House throughout the year, and I could not be prouder of the great efforts that the pupils have made for Grenfell every term this year. Huge congratulations

must go to **Sylvie Digby**, the first Grenfell member to score over 1000 points in a year, earning herself a coveted Diamond certificate from **Miss Easter**; what an amazing achievement! A final mention to our departing captains for this term; Captain **Ayesha Menon** and Vice-Captain **Haniya Lamkin-Berry**, who have led the House superbly in this busy term; thank you both for your great support and leadership.





# LINCOLN HOUSE

By Mrs Taylor

Once again, I feel immensely proud to lead Lincoln  
– it's such a great house!

Lincoln has had a good year with many individual and House successes. Although we've yet to retain our top spot, pupils have worked hard to get House points and excellent for the House. **Oliver Fry** was our top outstanding winner, and **Juliet Frampton** was our overall top House point scorer. Whenever there is a House event, the children rally around and do their bit, and I'm incredibly grateful to the Year 8 team who have stepped up to be Team Captains and Vice Captains.

The 'Blue' House has rallied together to bring several team successes during the year. We won the highly contested General Knowledge quiz and House Netball back in the Autumn term, and we came 2nd in Cross Country, Rugby and Hockey.

Although Lincoln eventually came in 4th at Sports Day, we had some superb successes on the day. Our Juniors came 1st overall, **Sophie Gaskell** broke a long-standing running record, and there were many fantastic moments, most notably a very hard-fought 2nd place in the Tug of War! My huge thanks to every pupil who represented the House; you were fantastic!

This year the Lincoln House Captains and Vice Captains have helped out a lot with assemblies and at other House events. I hope they've enjoyed the experience.

Our House takes its name from Abraham Lincoln, the 16th US president, who truly had a pioneering spirit. We want everyone at Wycliffe to develop this, and in Lincoln, we relish

that challenge!

Lincoln House Captains: **Evie Coulton, Holly Tucker, Noah Cannadine**

Vice-Captains: **William Bengtsson, Chelsey Atherton-Smith, Callum McCourt**

Rugby Captain: **George Blenkinsop**

Hockey Captain: **Yasmin Perez Hernandez**

Swimming Captain: **Yasmin Perez Hernandez**

Football Captain: **Joseph Staff**

Netball Captain: **Bella Stokes**

Music Captain: **William Bengtsson**

Tennis Captain: **Issie Gota**

Athletics Captain: **George Blenkinsop**

Cricket Captain: **Chelsey Atherton-Smith**







# SCOTT HOUSE

By Mrs Hanson

Another year has flown by, with Scott remaining positive and strong, demonstrating their resilience and talents in various new experiences this year.

Scott has done well in the different competitions, becoming the House champions in the Autumn Term but narrowly missing many trophies and cups by just a few points. However, our grit and determination have remained strong, and I want to thank all the 'Scotties' for preserving and keeping **Mr Arman** on his toes; we will catch him!

The House Song competition was a particular highlight for me this year, we came in at a close second place, but the lively, energetic rendition of 'Scott Up and Dance' ensures that the 'Walk the Moon' song will never have the original lyrics sung again, as demonstrated in our end of term discos!

Our new language spelling bee competition saw Scott Linguistics take the first-ever trophy, and our quiz team was challenged into third place for the general knowledge quiz.

Each sporting house competition has

been fought out with fervour. Although we didn't win Sports Day, there were many stand-out performances, personal bests and offers of encouragement and support that ensured all enjoyed the day.

The Year 8 team convincingly won the tug of war, and their ability to

work together and communicate was undoubtedly noted.

Thank you again to all those who have helped make each house assembly and competition run smoothly, and good luck to all those 'Scotties' who are moving on to the next stage of their adventure.

A few words from **Emma Barrable**, Year 8, who is joining the Senior School in September.

"From my point of view, Scott is a kind, loving and caring House where everyone gets along in harmony. We will happily work as a team, like a family and like friends.

In Scott, when we do a house assembly sometimes, we read out some achievements from outside of school, like **Grace Kennedy** and her

grades for tap dancing and **Sammy Churchill** and his Karting.

When it comes to the House Competitions, ALL the houses get very competitive, but nowhere near how competitive Shaftesbury get. In Scott, we have a big desire to win but are motto is "It's not the winning that matters but the taking part that counts". But every time, our house mascot (Scott Bear the Pug) brings us good luck at every competition."



“

Our new language spelling bee competition saw Scott Linguistics take the first-ever trophy, and our quiz team was challenged into third place for the general knowledge quiz.

”



# SHAFTESBURY HOUSE

By Mr Arman

Shaftesbury House win again!

What a great summer it has been for the Red House! The pupils have put such a great effort into their sport this summer. Winning the swimming competition and Sports Day was the crowning glory! The Tug of War was a great event for the Year 8s, never to be forgotten.

In the academic race for points, well done to **Niamh Pettingell** (Year 5), who scored 1128 House points over the year, which has never been done before! Truly amazing! Thank you to all the pupils for making 2022-23 so special.





“ Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and appreciate the level of challenge put before them as a means to boost their self-confidence. ”

Independent Schools Inspectorate





# BOARDING

By Ben Mason

**WOW! What a year it's been for our Boarders.**

The House is thriving as we reach nearly 70 full-time boarders, many new to Wycliffe and life as a Boarder. Inevitably, it's taken some time to settle, but boarding thrives most when everyone scoops each other up, supporting them through the tough times.

We indeed see our mini-community within the bigger community coming together in such moments. A true co-educational House for Years 3-8.

Like most Boarding Schools, the trips and evening activities are the year's highlights.

This year is no exception. The introduction of TNF (Tuesday night

football) has been well received, while dodgeball became a weekly staple in winter.

The summer evenings have allowed us to utilise the field this term. Allowing pupils the chance to make up their own games, set their own rules and play together is an important development within childhood.

The trips, however, have been the highlight of the year. During the winter term, trips to Planet Ice, Cribbs Causeway, and Longleat were hugely popular, yet our spontaneous snow day excited the House. Watching the pupils fixated on the snowfall could only mean one thing; one huge snowball fight! Our Spring term saw visits to Coral

Reef (swimming pool with slides), Ninja Warrior and Laser Fusion, to name a few, while the Summer term saw a return to Aquaventure, our very own slip and slide with garden games and a thrilling day out at Alton Towers.

“

**We indeed see our mini-community within the bigger community coming together in such moments. A true co-educational House for Years 3 to 8.**

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The House itself has undergone a huge makeover this year. The Games Room is now complete with new equipment, artwork and a new carpet. The Year 8 Common Room has been transformed into a bespoke movie room, while the computer room has been repurposed into a new chill room. Equally, we have expanded into the old nursery making a new craft room, a space where we can paint and get messy without the fear of making the house dirty.

We have worked hard on personalising the communal areas. More photos and homely comforts have made their way into the House,

which genuinely feels like a ‘home away from home’.

We would like to wish **Miss Scott**, **Miss Bingham**, **Mr Westlake** and **Miss Van Eck** the best of luck as they move onto new pastures; **Mr Kingsley** will be continuing his time at Wycliffe, continuing the fantastic support he offers the boarders, especially on the boy’s side.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye and thank you for all your support this year. I know that the boarding Houses will be in capable hands with **Mr Maher** and **Miss Oliver** at the helm and that Boarding will continue to thrive at Wycliffe.



# KIRBY CHALLENGE

The Kirby Challenge gives Year 8 pupils the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and prove to themselves that they have the skills to contribute more to their school and the wider community.

To achieve the Award, pupils provided evidence of commitment to collaborating with their peers and organisations outside of school and completing a physical, mental or practical challenge.

Pupils worked with staff mentors to develop their ideas on Saturday mornings in the Spring term. We all learnt that turning their ideas into reality required resilience and organisation. Some wonderful activities were planned for a morning of action: they ranged from litter picking along the canal, helping out at a local care home and working in a food bank.


Contributions to School life were equally impressive. Pupils organised

Drama, Table Tennis, Dance and Art Clubs for younger pupils and raised awareness by delivering assemblies on homelessness, Water Aid and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Climbing Pen-Y-Fan and Snowden, a 10-mile bike ride and learning to play the piano were some of the many challenges pupils accomplished. The Award finishes with what some argue is the most

challenging aspect of their projects, presenting their achievements, failures and reflections to parents. **Mr Guest** and **Mrs Grant** presented the Kirby Challenge Award badges. Mr Guest developed the Award and has overseen its delivery for 12 years. He leaves Wycliffe this year with great pride in everything the pupils achieved through taking part in the Award.'

“Some wonderful activities were planned for a morning of action: they ranged from litter picking along the canal, helping out at a local care home and working in a food bank.”





“ Pupils are thoughtful and articulate communicators who express themselves clearly using a good range of vocabulary and phrasing, often above the expected level for their age. ”

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