



# Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

This is always a positive end of term, with the days getting longer and the spring colours all around us. As I write, we are looking forward to tonight's Showcase, our first school performance since the COVID disruption started over two years ago. I know what a special experience this will be for all the students taking part, the staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare them, and all of you who will be lucky enough to be in the audience. Truly a real sign of hope in times that continue to challenge us.



As we move into 'living with COVID', it is unfortunately true that school life continues to be disrupted for many of our students and staff because of the ongoing high case rates and the consequent absence from school. I would like to thank you as parents for all the support and understanding you have shown us, as we have battled through the different phases of the pandemic, trying always to provide the best education we can in the circumstances. Our students as ever continue to impress us with their resilience, and flexibility to learn in so many different ways. I would particularly like to pay tribute to our Year 11, as they approach the end of their time with us. They have managed unprecedented levels of pressure, as they have navigated more formal assessments just in case we need teacher assessed grades, as well as preparing for a 'normal' GCSE exam season. We do look forward to reaching the end with them and being able to celebrate with them at the Prom.

You will find in this newsletter much other evidence of school life returning to its normal rich diversity – I do hope you will enjoy reading about all that has been going on.

We seem to be spending significant time at present reminding students about the details of our uniform rules. Apart from wasting time, this can lead to conflict when students do not quickly do as asked. I should like to draw two items in particular to your attention:

**Jewellery:** No jewellery apart from a maximum of two small stud earrings, one in the lobe of each ear. We have seen an increase in multiple piercings in the ears and in nose piercings. We do allow students to wear discreet clear or flesh-coloured plastic retainers, but nothing else. Please ensure that if your child has a new piercing, a retainer is inserted from the start. We also do not allow any bracelets or charity bands. A lightweight gold or silver chain with a small religious symbol is permissible.

**Nail varnish** is not permitted.

Please could I also remind parents of the importance of students being properly equipped for school? However well organised they were in September, a number of students are now arriving without the

basics – pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, calculator, coloured pencils, glue, whiteboard – which slows down the start of lessons and hence progress. Getting the basics sorted for the start of the new term is essential!

I hope that you and your families will be able to enjoy some relaxation over the holidays, and that the spring weather will continue during the break. But, Year 11, remember to stick to those revision timetables! We are recommending 3 hours per day, 6 days per week, as a minimum.

Catharine Darnton  
Headteacher

## Parent View

Parent View is an online questionnaire for parents and carers to feed back to Ofsted on their child's school. It is now the main mechanism that Ofsted use to gather parents' views at the time of an inspection. There are just 12 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as happiness, safety, progress, quality of teaching, behaviour and school leadership. The final question asks if you would recommend the school to another parent. Everyone's responses are put together and are available to view on the Parent View website. In order to minimise the risk of abuse, you are required to register and create a password. We would be very pleased to have your ongoing feedback of what you think of the school – please visit <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## School Fund

Our School Fund is an opportunity for parents to support the quality of education for their children through making regular voluntary contributions to be used directly to provide resources for use in the classroom and at home.



### Why do we need your support?

Unlike many schools, Gillotts has not had a tradition of regular individual donations to support the school. However, as you will have seen from media coverage, the financial climate for all schools has become increasingly difficult in recent years. School funding is still below 2010 levels in real terms - in spite of steadily rising costs so in real terms, our income is falling. This is making it harder for the school to deliver the excellent teaching and learning we aspire to.

### How much would we like you to contribute?

There is no obligation or pressure to donate but, if you would like to, we will be grateful for whatever you can afford. Suggestions donations are below.

If you give £10 per month, this would give us £120 per year – with Gift Aid, that is £150!

If you give £1 per day, this would give us £365 per year – with Gift Aid, that's over £450 per year!

### How does this work with the support provided by the Parents' Association?

The Parents' Association has provided invaluable support to Gillotts for many years. The Association fully endorses this request for individual regular contributions. However payments will be through the school, to preserve parents' anonymity.

“The PA fully supports the school in striving to maintain a high standard of education for our children in the face of reduced income. Donating to the School Fund will be a way of trying to ensure that our children continue to receive the excellent standard of education that Gillotts at present provides. The School Fund is also a way for parents/ carers who do not have time to help with the PA to be involved with the school.”

## What will we spend the funds on?

We will spend the funds on ensuring all curriculum subjects are well resourced, including with the additional new online resources that we know students and their parents value so much. This will enable us to support students to continue to make the outstanding progress that has become the norm in recent years.

Please give whatever you can – fill in and return the form attached – thank you for your support.

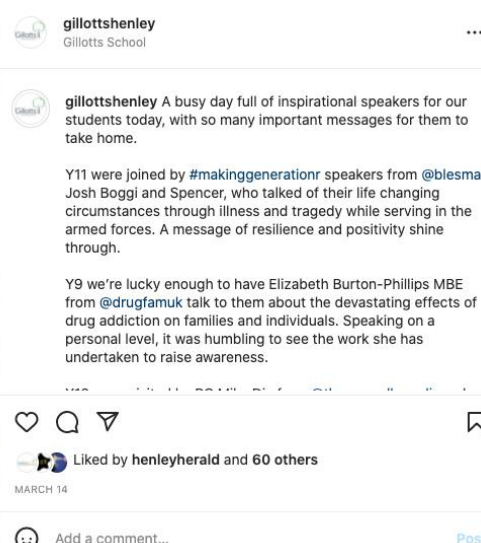
## Not By Ourselves Alone - Update

The Spring term has undoubtedly been a very busy one at Gillotts. Our school motto of Non Nobis Solum (translated above) is always at the forefront of trying to ensure the school community upholds our three key values of Kindness, Respect and Not Doing Harm. Giving students the opportunity to demonstrate these values and celebrating them when they do is an important part of school life. The best place to see everything that is going on is through our school social media pages at Instagram and Twitter:

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

[www.twitter.com/gillottshenley](https://www.twitter.com/gillottshenley)

We are always keen to also hear of achievements and exploits outside of school as well, so if you have any newsworthy stories, please do let us know! See the images below for what's been happening!







**gillottshenley**  
Gillotts School

...



**gillottshenley** All this week, Y7 students have been taking to the great outdoors, and visiting various sections of the River Pang as part of their Geography topic on Rivers. It's been great to be able to run trips again, and support learning outside the classroom!

#gillotts #henley #community #fieldtrip #geography #ks3geography #wetfeet

3 w



**lucyjanewatkinson** #creative learning at its best



3 w 1 like Reply



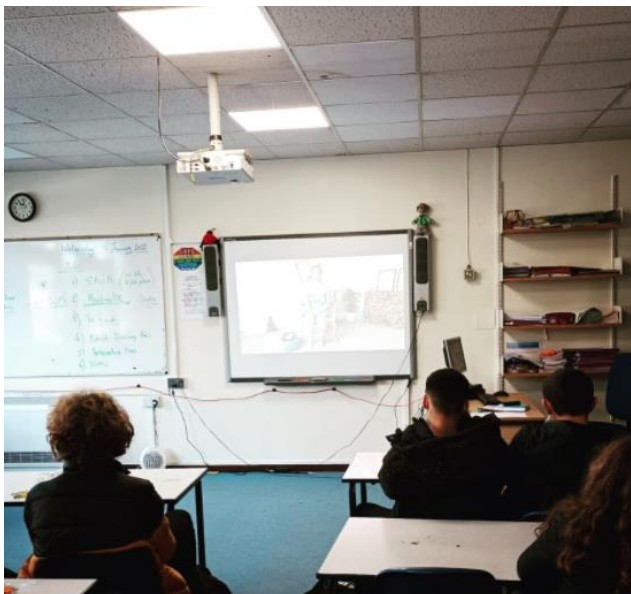
Liked by thehenleycollege and 64 others

MARCH 11



Add a comment...

Post



**gillottshenley**  
Gillotts School

...



**gillottshenley** Not the most exciting pic in the world, but the context is important. We have been introducing 5 minutes of Mindfulness occasionally into our tutor time over the last few weeks, to support giving students the opportunity to learn new techniques and strategies to self-care. Hugely impressed by how well they have engaged with it!

#gillotts #henley #community #wellbeing #mentalhealth #mindfulness #mindfulnessmeditation

11 w



Liked by thehenleycollege and 58 others

JANUARY 19



## Darwin News

### Tutee of the Term

DCAJ: Ella Bricknall

DFD/HK: Samantha Henney

DPJY: Robyn Fielder

DFMW: Ethan Catt

DJLG: Olivia Samyui-Adams

DADT: Jemima Day

DDI: Max Miller

DRD/NFD: EmmyLou Gallagher

DCHA/CJW: George Acock

DGS: Callum Gaffney

DJAS/CEC: Ruby Vines

DROM: Shay Huntley



## Orwell News

### Tutee of the Term



OHRW: Millie Francis

OJKL: James Marshall

OTWN: Theo Decardi-Nelson

OACM: Corey Sartin

OGDL: Olive Bowley

OAD/AB: Devon Staples

OBLF: Felix Richardson

OCG: Woody Hamilton-Hurst

OHJS/SEL: Charlie Hughes

OPCM/TL: Freddie Sayer

OJSK: Charlotte Groom

OGMO: Ambreen Babariya

## Pankhurst News

### Tutee of the Term

PBJB/ELD: Alfie Lawrence

PNGK: Sophie Cole

PSJW: Isabel Nicholson

PKLO/CLF: Kiernan Norris

PWJH: David Stobie

PGDM: Faye Popham

PCLM/JTP: Phoebe Cronin

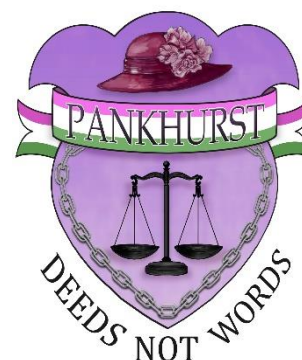
PSMS/HLM: Neve Phillips Moore

PHMJ/JJB: Freya Smith

PTAG: Ellen Hagstroem

PLS/LJA: Faizah Khan

PFLP: Ruby Thomas



## School Uniform from September 2022

You will remember that I wrote to you recently about proposals for some small changes to simplify our school uniform from September 2022. The full confirmed school uniform requirements are set out below.

There is **no change to the main uniform requirements** but there are **some changes to the PE uniform**.

The changes are as follows:

- All students in **Years 8-9 (2022-23)** will be required to purchase a **long-sleeved rugby shirt** for winter sports outdoors. This will be available in two styles
- Boys will no longer be required to wear white shorts for any activities

Please note that students will need sufficient items to manage the need for washing and we continue to advise that students have their names/initials sewn/stuck on their PE kit, as this helps us to return lost items.

Thank you to those of you who commented on the proposed changes. I have added some commentary below on the main point raised.

### *Leotards*

This is a difficult one as we would like our uniform to be entirely gender neutral. When students are participating in gym, sometimes they fall and teachers, male and female, step in to catch them, as they should. Being able to grab the fabric of the leotard enables this to be done with lower risk. Girls may wear the short-sleeved polo shirt over the leotard, if they wish.

### *Transitional arrangements for purchase of rugby shirts*

We will phase in the requirement so that the sports polo shirt remains a choice for rugby for students in Years 10 and 11 in 2022-23.

### *Hockey sticks*

We will remove the requirement for girls to provide their own sticks, given all students now experience all sports.

### *School shorts*

We will allow knee length tailored shorts from any supplier, in the summer months only.

We are also working with the Parents' Association to put in place a system to ensure second-hand uniform is available for parents to purchase. We anticipate parents will donate unwanted items to the PA who will sell them to raise funds for the school. We hope to have this in place early in the academic year 2022/23. We will keep you informed as our plans develop.

## Uniform List

Navy blue Gillotts school polo shirt – with long or short sleeve

Navy blue Gillotts school sweatshirt

Plain black or dark grey tailored trousers (- no leggings, jeans, cords, canvas, denim or cargo style) or

Regulation Gillotts black school skirt worn to the knee or

Plain black or dark grey tailored shorts (summer months only) (- no canvas, denim, or cargo or skin tight styles)

White or black socks or

Black or flesh coloured tights

Black shoes, closed back and front (- no trainers, boots, sandals)

Plain, single colour outdoor coat (- no large logos, no hoodies; no denim, leather, leather-look or suede)

## A guide to PE Kit

<b>Rugby and Football</b>	Gillotts rugby shirt Gillotts skort or Gillotts sports shorts Gillotts sports socks Football boots Shin pads (football only) <b>NB</b> a gum shield is strongly recommended <b>NB</b> students in Year 10 and 11 (2022-23) may continue to wear a Gillotts sport polo shirt if they have not previously purchased a Gillotts rugby shirt
<b>Hockey</b>	Gillotts rugby shirt or Gillotts sports polo shirt Gillotts skort or Gillotts sports shorts Gillotts sports socks Football boots or astros Shin pads <b>NB</b> a gum shield is strongly recommended
<b>Netball</b>	Gillotts rugby shirt or Gillotts sports polo shirt Gillotts skort or Gillotts sports shorts White socks Trainers
<b>Cricket, Rounders, Athletics and Indoors (except Gym and Dance)</b>	Gillotts sports polo shirt Gillotts sports shorts or cycling shorts White socks Trainers
<b>Gym and Dance</b>	Gillotts sports polo shirt Gillotts sports shorts A leotard is compulsory for female students – this may be worn with cycling shorts or leggings (as an alternative to the Gillotts sports shorts) and with the Gillotts sports polo shirt
<b>Outdoor optional</b>	Gillotts sports fleece (optional but strongly recommended) Thermal baselayer (navy or black) (optional but strongly recommended) Cricket whites (optional)

We ask for the sports kit to be named (at least with initials) on the front – sewn or stuck on – this helps us to return kit to students when lost.



## Year 7 River Pang Geography Field Trips

After a break of over two years owing to the global Covid pandemic, off-site geography fieldwork has started up again. We have taken almost 200 Year 7 students on seven separate half-day trips to visit the River Pang in Berkshire. These trips have involved studying how and why the river's characteristics (velocity, width and depth) change along its course from the source near Compton on the Berkshire Downs to where it joins the River Thames at Pangbourne.



We visited three sites on each trip - near the source of the river, mid-way along its course and a mile from its mouth. At the second site, the students were able to get in the river and measure the characteristics mentioned above. This included measuring the river velocity using our new digital flow metres, as well as using the more traditional method using a dog biscuit, tape measure and watch.

The students worked really well together in small groups and they will be presenting and analysing the data in class over the next few weeks. It was so good to get back out in the field and we are really looking forward to taking the whole of Year 8 to the Jurassic coastline in Dorset at the end of May. The Year 11 geographers will then be heading off to Weymouth in September for their residential fieldtrip.

A huge thank you also goes to all the staff who volunteered their time to help organise and run these trips.

Dr Newbold



## Year 10 Science Live Trip

On Monday 7th February, a group of 45 Year 10 students attended the Science Live trip at The New Theatre in Oxford. This was a fantastic day where students listened to a range of talks by scientists including Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Sir Robert Winston and Professor Alice Roberts. The students learned about the range of careers in science, from black holes and telescopes to dating bones and pioneering work in IVF treatment. The chief GCSE examiner also gave a presentation on revision techniques, applying knowledge to exam questions and top tips to succeed. The students were impeccably behaved and really enjoyed their day.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students from years 9 & 10 will be taking part in their DofE Bronze expeditions coming up on the weekends of 14/15 May and 11/12 June. It is a good idea to get a few practice walks in and to break in any new boots before then. Most students completed expedition training in January. Some students were not able to attend, and these students should check their DofE Google classroom for details of how to complete the training online. Well done to those who have been making good progress with this.

It has been marvellous to see so many completing their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. We wish everyone still working on these success with their activities.

Take a look at the [Gillotts DofE website](https://www.gillotts.org.uk/dofe) for advice, ideas and useful links, for example to the website for BXM expeditions for the kit list. BXM expeditions will be emailing with details of the locations and timing of the expeditions and will ask for families to log into their portal regarding medical consent. Please be aware to look out for the email as it may look like spam. We will send an email to let parents know when it is being sent.

For any Year 11 students who have not completed their award, please remember it is not too late to ask your assessor to write your assessor report if you have completed your sections.

Contact [DofE@Gillotts.org.uk](mailto:DofE@Gillotts.org.uk) if you need help accessing your account - they go dormant after a while.

## KS3 Spectacular Performance

Tuesday 5th April saw the return of performance at Gillotts! In our first appearance since December 2019, 90 of our students from Year 7, 8 and 9 (with a few supporting from Year 10 and 11) came together to put on a most successful and entertaining evening of Dance, Drama and Music.

The quality of the evening shone through and the audience had moments of comedy in the Drama pieces, notably Little Red Cap which was performed by four Year 7 students and Rumpelstiltskin by a small group of Year 9 students. Year 7 Drama Club students had their first taste of performing to a large audience in their version of 'The Golden Goose' which was thoroughly enjoyed. Drama had been overseen by Mrs Alder and her fabulous Drama Captains who had taken lead roles in organising and directing the groups.



Mrs Jansen's dance groups as ever, were beautifully choreographed with performances from Year 7, 8 and 9 dance clubs as well as a Year 9 dance class who had made a piece especially for the evening called 'Nightmare' using 'Bring me to Life' (Evanescence) as their soundtrack. An exquisite dance solo performed by Amelie Holden was a sight to behold!

Musical Theatre Club is a new venture set up and run by Miss King (assisted by Mrs Chater and Mrs Alder). The group were absolutely fantastic and opened the show with a spine tingling rendition of 'Do you Hear the People Sing' (Les Miserables) and ended it with a full ensemble performance of 'When I Grow Up' (Matilda). A special mention to the group of eight students from Year 9 who performed 'Tell me it's not True' (Blood Brothers) which was outstanding.



Mr Bull's orchestra didn't disappoint with their renditions of 'Viva la Vida' (Coldplay) and 'Bittersweet Symphony' (The Verve) and they were so pleased to be on stage again playing together as the ensemble has grown in numbers and confidence this year.



Mrs Hodges put on a wonderful Art Exhibition showcasing students' work from Year 7, 8 and 9 and the quality of work was excellent. The audience really enjoyed seeing the work and looking at individual pieces before the show and during the interval whilst they enjoyed refreshments provided by our ever supportive Parents' Association.



The entire show was compered by the three Drama Captains; Rosie, Charlie and Pati. They did a phenomenal job and kept the audience informed and engaged in between pieces.

All in all the whole evening was a fantastic success. We were overwhelmed with how maturely the students conducted themselves, with the quality of their work across all performances and by just the sheer pleasure of being back on stage to an audience. We hope all the performers are as proud of themselves as we are of them.

Mrs Alder, Mrs Jansen, Mr Bull, Miss King and Mrs David.



## You're Hired!

On the final PSHE day of the academic year, Y10 students participated in the Mock Interview Day. Preparation started in February when they were tasked with writing a CV, highlighting their achievements, skills and qualities. The workshops in English lessons and support from their tutors really paid off as all the CVs were submitted before the deadline. The CVs were sent to the interviewers for scrutiny and the students went shopping to find their interview outfits.

On the day, 20 professionals from a wide variety of careers gave up their time to interview the cohort. An ex Reuters journalist was the warm up act, giving the students an insight into his career and some top tips for the interview. He emphasised the importance of the skills the students had developed from the activities they participated in, rather than the activity itself.

The student nervously walked to the gym to find their interviewer. Once the first couple of questions were answered they relaxed and their confidence grew. One interviewer said 'after one minute, they wouldn't stop talking and I could've spoken to them for hours'. At the break, the interviewers were full of praise for the students they had seen so far and the professional manner they had approached the interview. One commented 'I would've given her a job solely on her CV, but she was even more impressive during the interview'.

The students also gained lots of confidence from the process as it was the first time at Gillotts they had all completed the same task, but had the opportunity to think about themselves as individuals. One student said 'I was really nervous before the interview, but I shouldn't have worried as they were really nice and gave me some excellent advice'.

The final feedback from the employers was excellent and they were amazed at the maturity and breadth of skills and qualities the students have. One of the interviewers emailed me and wrote 'I left feeling very impressed with the demeanour of the pupils I saw. They were articulate and polite and I was thrilled to be part of such a worthwhile event'. Another said 'the student was so humble about her sporting success, so I told her she needed to tell everyone and celebrate her achievements and the skills associated with it'.

I was really impressed with all the students and hope they will be able to reflect and act upon the feedback provided to support future applications and interviews. I would also like to thank everyone (too many to mention) who supported me in organising the event.

Mr Bull





## PE Department

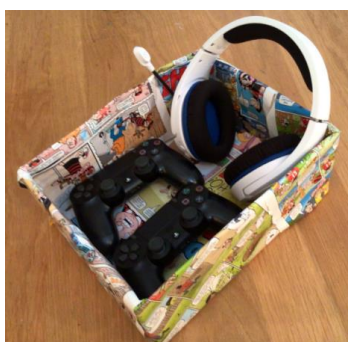
It has been great to be able to continue with fixtures during the Netball and Football season and again we have been part of the South Oxfordshire Schools league in both with games scheduled right through to the end of term. We have also taken part in the year 7 and 8 indoor athletics events held at Icknield School as well as being able to enter B and C teams into Netball tournaments- giving more students opportunities to play for the school who may otherwise not be able to. Teams were also entered into an indoor rowing event with the under 13s girls and boys both coming 1<sup>st</sup>, the under 15 girls coming 1<sup>st</sup> and the under 15 boys coming 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As usual our students continue to make us and themselves proud on the pitch in behaviour, attitude and commitment to their school sport - it is always a pleasure to take them to fixtures.



## Design & Technology – Clubs & Competitions

**Year 7 entries for the Design Museum – Design Ventura ‘Waste Age’ Mini Challenge for 2022**



Console accessory holder made from recycled paper & box - design by Toby Y7



Paper Lampshade made from recycled school exercise book covers – design by Corbin Y7



Toad Hall – design by Jackson Y7

## Year 9 entries for the Design Museum – Design Ventura Challenge 2022

Design by  
Florence, Evelyn,  
Amber and  
Michelle Y9



## Year 10 entries for the Leaders Award Engineering Competition 2022

Design by Lawrence, William and Arun Y10





## First Lego League Robotics Competition – Oxford Brookes University 2022

The team won the Judges Award and the Core Values Award as well as our STEM Ambassador Simon winning the Team Coach Award.



## Science Week

Between Monday 14th and 21st March, Gillotts celebrated the annual science week. This year's theme was growth and students looked at chemical, plant and personal growth. In KS3, students were shown experiments such as elephant's toothpaste and yeast balloons. Students also discussed how plants, populations and people grow.

All years were invited to attend in-person career talks on Tuesday lunchtime from Erica Roberts, a senior engineer and Ben Westwood, a chemist. These talks gave a real insight into science careers and students asked some great questions. We also had GeoBus (run by UCL) deliver a series of virtual events. Three classes in Year 7 explored space and used 3D glasses to look at the surface of Mars. Three classes in Year 9 attended a similar event looking at earthquakes and they produced 3D fault models. Students also participated in an inter-house competition answering growth related questions; well done Darwin who won!

Students have also been encouraged to submit an entry to the national science week competition; creating a poster on any aspect of growth. Entries will be submitted over Easter!



## Science Club

This term, Year 7 and 8 students have been carrying out STEM projects including building a parachute, testing a rocket, building the biggest spaghetti and marshmallow tower and making lava lamps. Students have also been carrying out chemical experiments including changing the colour of the flame, testing the pH of substances and methane bubbles.





## Learning Support Nature Club

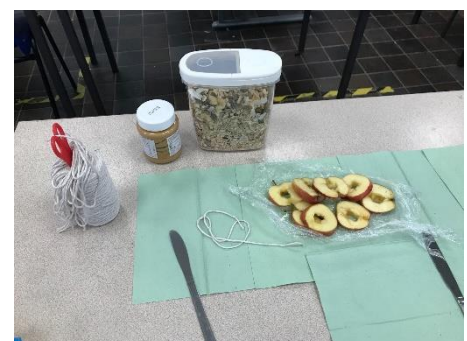
The LS Nature Club has been busy so far this year!

We have:

- Replicated art by Andy Goldsworthy on the Mansion Block lawn.
- Made Christmas decorations from materials collected in the school forest.
- Learned about how to support wildlife in the Winter months and made bird feeders from apples and seeds. These were hung in trees around school and provided food for the birds and squirrels.
- Made our own Terrariums using jars and materials from the school grounds.
- Made leaf mandalas using Autumn leaves and metallic sharpies.

We also have lots planned for the Spring and Summer including:

- Whittling wood carvings
  - Making dens
  - Rock art
- And much more





## Planting our new Wildlife Corridor at Gillotts

The Woodland Trust donated over 400 whips, young plants of native hedging plants such as dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood that will make a hedge from the copse on the field to the woods on Gillotts Lane. This will form a natural wildlife corridor and will also provide habitat and food for many birds and insects. Year 7, 8 and 9 students volunteered to learn the technique for planting and protecting the hedging which we hope will be a lasting contribution to the wonderful grounds we have at Gillotts.

The Woodland trust have the goal of planting 50 million trees by 2025 so these students can be proud to have played a part towards this goal.



## Art Department

We have been making good use of the new kiln this year, with most year groups having fun with clay; don't worry Year 7, your turn is just around the corner!

Year 11 have made some impressive pieces inspired by the theme of surfaces. They were able to glaze them with some wonderful new glazes bought with the help of a generous donation from The Henley Arts Society.



Year 10 have made some smaller pods inspired by the shapes and textures of natural forms.



Year 8 have been drawings and designing birds, looking at the work of Claire Youngs and Alison Pink as their inspiration. Their ceramic owls are full of character!



Continuing their theme of Pop Art, Year 9 students have finished making their incredible clay cakes inspired by the sculptures of Claes Oldenberg. Good enough to eat!



## Christian Union Club

Since September Christian Union has been exploring the Christian faith and how we can apply the teachings into our lives and communities. The students have raised many interesting and thought-provoking questions which have provided great discussions, all accompanied by cake and biscuits! For the past term we have been joined by Kryssie who is a Ministry Trainee at Trinity at Four church in Henley. Kryssie has been a great support to the group and we look forward to welcoming her back next term.



## Food Technology Department

We have had lots of pasta making this term with Year 8 making fresh tagliatelle with a homemade ragu sauce whilst Year 9 have made ravioli.



Year 7 have been learning about gelatinisation and shortening of fats.



## Library News

### All things books and reading

We follow four major book awards in school; the Berkshire Book Award and the Children's Book Award both include books entirely nominated by students. The top ten for the Children's Book Award for 2020 and 2021, combined into one because of COVID, have recently been revealed and Gillotts students will have the chance to create portfolio work for the winning authors and illustrators.

The shortlists for the Berkshire Book Award and the YA Berkshire Book Award are here:

<https://www.berkshirebookaward.org.uk/>

The Carnegie and Greenaway awards are voted for by librarians, but students can shadow the awards. Greenaway is the award we follow closely in school; the books are nominated for their illustrations. Next term Mr Finch's Year 8 class will be shadowing Greenaway and doing some creative project work based on the books. For those who want to get involved in both awards, the links to the shortlisted book are here:

<https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/yoto-greenaway-medal-shortlist-2022/>

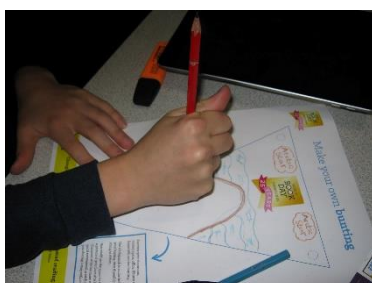
<https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/yoto-carnegie-medal-shortlist-2022/>







Year 7 classes had a themed lesson and the opportunity to bring in a prop and tell the rest of the class how it is relevant to a particular book. Students also made a piece of bunting for the library, using the prop as a way of creating a book review in an alternative format.



At lunch-time on World Book Day we had a Book Club and Eco Club combined meeting, with students doing creative writing by recycling old magazines into new poems and short stories.





## Eco Club

This term Eco Club members have been putting together a presentation about our school environment and their concerns about litter, recycling and the over-use of plastic in our wider world. This has been shared with the whole school in assemblies. They have also helped to plant some of the hedges donated to school by the Woodland Trust, under the expert guidance of Mrs Michael. We are also pleased that the bulbs planted in the Gateway garden are blooming and adding a splash of colour. We have plans to put in more flowering and edible crops and shall be sowing seeds in the greenhouse soon. Members are starting to create a google site to showcase the work and efforts of our members.



In February we took part in the Green Hearts campaign, creating hearts with pledges and questions for our MPs and decision makers. We shared them on Twitter and have added them to our Eco Tree in the library.

Eco Club members are from Years 7 and 8; the club was founded by Year 7 in the summer term of 2021 and new members are always welcome.





## Gateway Update

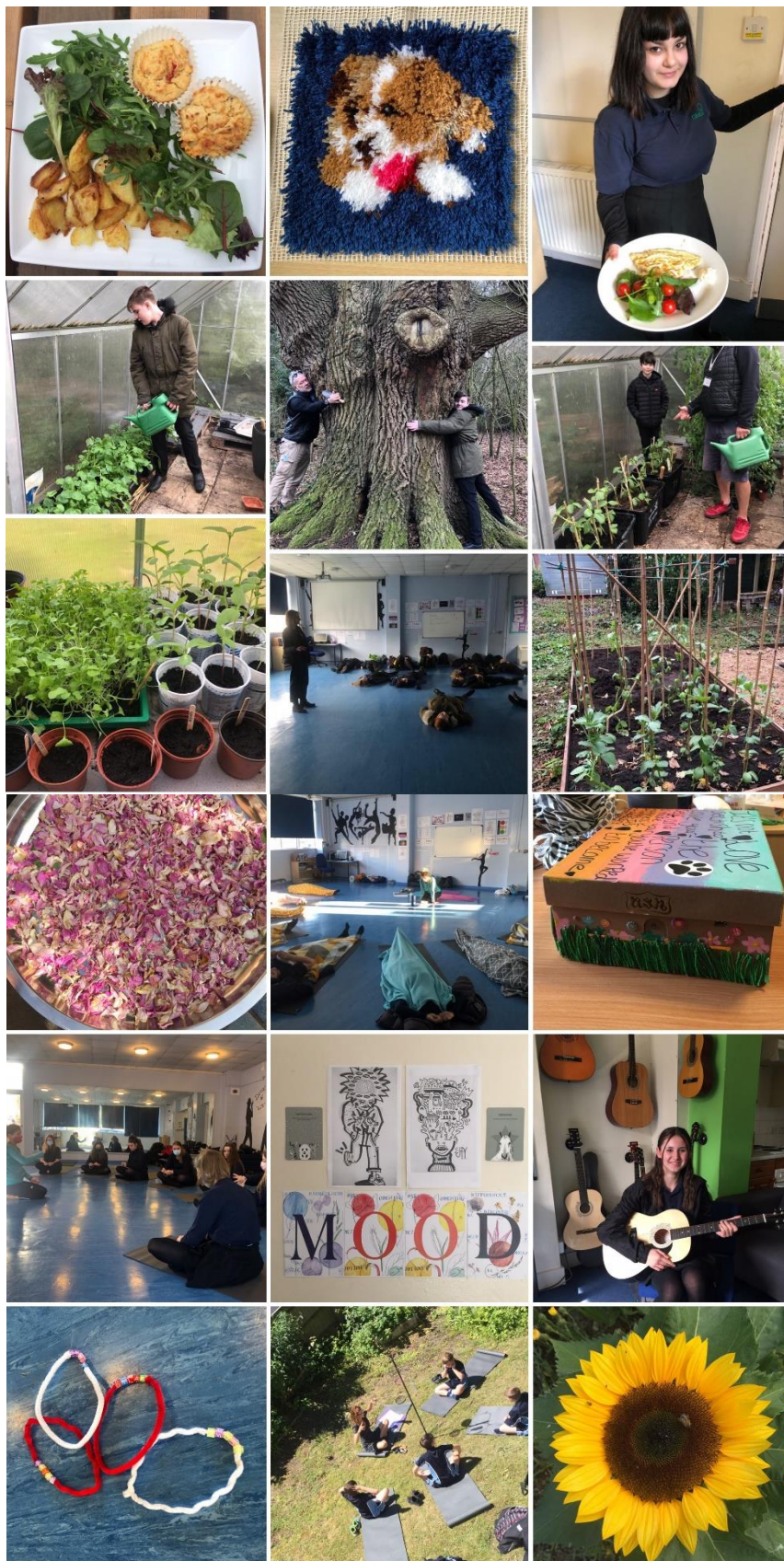
Recognising everyone as an individual, with unique talents and skills.

Working together to find the calm within. Enjoying the things, we love. Providing support for the more challenging times life presents. Gateway has had a busy year:

Cooking  
Caring  
Creating  
Eating  
Fun  
Friends  
Growing  
Learning  
Laughing  
Making  
Meditating  
Mindfulness  
Music  
Planting  
Painting  
Sharing  
Understanding

Made possible with:

- EWB
- ELSA
- Gateway Yoga
- Gateway Guitar Club
- Dot.b Mindfulness
- Mindfulness Meditation



## Term dates for 2021 - 2022

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2021.

Term	Dates	Number of days
<b>Autumn Term</b>	02 September - 22 October	37
October half term	25 October - 29 October	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	01 November - 17 December	35
Christmas holiday	20 December - 03 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	05 January - 18 February	33
Spring half term	21 February - 25 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	28 February - 08 April	30
Easter Holiday	11 April - 22 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	25 April - 27 May	24
Late Spring half term	30 May - 03 June	
<b>Summer Term</b>	06 June - 22 July	35
<b>Total</b>		194

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Thursday 2 September 2021

Friday 3 September 2021

**Monday 6 September 2021 – to allow staggered start for COVID testing**

Friday 24 September 2021

Tuesday 4 January 2022 – in lieu of Platinum Jubilee bank holiday

**Wednesday 5 January 2022 – to allow staggered start for COVID testing**

Thursday 21 July 2022

Friday 22 July 2022

**Note** that due to COVID testing, the first days in school for students in September are as follows:

Year 7: Tuesday 7 September

Year 10, Year 11: Wednesday 8 September

Year 8, Year 9: Thursday 9 September

Please see information emailed to all parents for further details.

**Note** that due to COVID testing, the first days in school for students in January are as follows:

Year 11: Thursday 6 January

Year 7, Year 10: Friday 7 January

Year 8, Year 9: Monday 10 January

Monday 2 May 2022 is the May Day bank holiday.

*Note that the date of the spring bank holiday has been changed to Thursday 2 June;*

*Friday 3 June is the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday.*

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 23 September 2021

Friday 17 December 2021

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

## Term dates for 2022 - 2023

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2022.

Term	Dates	Number of days
<b>Autumn Term</b>	02 September - 21 October	36
October half term	24 October - 28 October	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	31 October - 20 December	37
Christmas holiday	21 December - 03 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	04 January - 10 February	28
Spring half term	13 February - 17 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	20 February - 31 March	30
Easter Holiday	3 April - 14 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	17 April - 26 May	29
Late Spring half term	29 May - 02 June	
<b>Summer Term</b>	05 June - 21 July	35
<b>Total</b>		195

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Friday 2 September 2022

Monday 5 September 2022

Friday 30 September 2022

Monday 19 December 2022

Tuesday 20 December 2022

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 6 September 2022. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 7 September 2022.

Monday 1 May 2023 is the May Day bank holiday.

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 29 September 2022

Friday 16 December 2022

Friday 21 July 2023

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening



## Term dates for 2023 - 2024

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2023.

Term	Dates	Number of days
<b>Autumn Term</b>	04 September - 20 October	35
October half term	23 October - 27 October	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	30 October - 21 December	39
Christmas holiday	22 December - 05 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	08 January - 9 February	25
Spring half term	12 February - 16 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	19 February - 28 March	29
Easter Holiday	29 March - 12 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	15 April - 24 May	29
Late Spring half term	27 May - 31 May	
<b>Summer Term</b>	03 June - 24 July	38
<b>Total</b>		195

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 4 September 2023

Friday 29 September 2023

Monday 22 July 2024

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Wednesday 24 July 2024

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2023. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

Monday 6 May 2024 is the May Day bank holiday.

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2023

Thursday 21 December 2023

Friday 19 July 2024

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

*Please note these date differ slightly from OCC dates – in particular, Thursday 21 December is in term time.*