



# Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

We have finally reached the end of another hectic, enjoyable and successful year – and our first year in three without a period of remote education. The challenges of COVID have remained – with high levels of student and staff absence in various periods of the year, and so some caution still in place – but there has been no doubt that this has been a more 'normal' year, with the return of fixtures, trips, concerts and shows, Prom and of course GCSE exams.



As ever, this term is all about hellos and goodbyes. Year 11 certainly went out in style at their Prom, which we held again at Badgemore Golf Club. The elegance of the surroundings was certainly appreciated by the students and added significantly to the sense of celebration. It was a lovely occasion for both staff and students, and we were all very proud to see how grown up they have become! They were a pleasure to celebrate with and it was lovely to have so many of you with us to see their arrival. We were also so impressed by how well they handled the pressures of the run up to and the actual GCSE exam period. Year 11 have had three disrupted years of education in their GCSE preparations but they maintained an admirable sense of balance and calm – an absolute credit to themselves and all who have supported them.

Again for the first time since 2019, we have been able to run five very successful Pioneer weeks for all Year 6 students joining us in September. Feedback from the students on the weeks was very positive. Favourite things included using Bunsen burners in Science, and of course the choice in the canteen and the space on the field. At the end of the week, parents told us that the worries had been allayed and their children 'couldn't wait' for September! It was lovely that many of our Pioneers and their parents then joined us at the Parents' Association BBQ – the perfect weather made the Mansion block lawn the perfect setting, and we had an impressive turnout for what was the first PA event post-COVID. It is so good to be able to start to rebuild connections and partnerships face to face.

There have been many other excitements this term. Year 7 had a wonderful weekend at Skern Lodge – including surfing in the sunshine in mid-May. Year 9 made their regular visit to Woodlands, with 48 students taking part in gorge walking, caving, canoeing and climbing. As ever, we have done incredibly well in all the Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire inter-school sport competitions. Sports Day was a great occasion with students both competing for and cheering on their Houses with incredible passion.

We are looking forward to the last events of term - a music concert on the last night, and then our final assembly, including academic prizes, on the last day.

Inevitably there are some staff goodbyes too. All those who are leaving us will be much missed and we thank them heartily for the way they have contributed to the overall success of the school.

We look forward to welcoming back Year 7 and Year 10 on Tuesday 6 September and all other students on Wednesday 7 September.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all the support you give the school, which is invaluable, and wish you all a very happy and refreshing holiday.

Best wishes  
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.

## Uniform in September

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 7-9 (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.

### *Shorts*

We will allow knee length tailored shorts from any supplier.

We have also worked with the Parents' Association to put in place a system to ensure second-hand uniform is available for parents to purchase. Parents will be asked to donate unwanted items to the PA who will sell them to raise funds for the school. The first sale will be on Friday 14 October. A donation bin – for clean and good condition uniform items (ones that have to be purchased from the school, eg polo shirts, skirts, PE kit) will be available outside Reception during the school's normal opening hours, from September.

**FINAL 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 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, Indoors (except Gym &amp; 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.

## House Award Update

As always, it has been another action packed year of House activity at Gillotts School, culminating with the Sports Day last week, which is always a joyous occasion, full of colour, enthusiasm and passion for respective Houses.

Throughout the year, students have been working towards collecting points for their House, through their actions and commitment to learning every day (classwork, homework, punctuality, attendance), their engagement in the wider school community (open evening, tours of the school, helping the local community), and taking part in the myriad of House competitions that go on across the school over the course of the year (sports competitions, film poster recreation, House quizzes, Maths challenges, Recycling competitions, CUP26 Challenge etc etc).

It has been great to be able to get back to some sense of normality this year and offer such a wide range of opportunities for students to be involved in, making positive contributions to our school community, and building that sense of working towards a common goal.

At the end of the year, Ms Darnton was able to award the House Cup to the House with the most points, which this year was Orwell with 50,002 points

Well done Team Orwell!

Over the next year, we hope to further develop and enhance our opportunities for House competitions, building that community spirit further, along with a little bit of friendly rivalry!



## Head Students for 2022-23

We are delighted to welcome three new head students for the academic year 2022-23.

### Bethan

Hi! My name is Bethan and I am really excited to be one of your new Head Students! I thought this role would be a great opportunity for me to get to know you all better and understand your wants and needs. I have lots of ideas of my own but would love to hear yours too!



One of my aims in this role is to create an even better community here at Gillotts and hopefully a stronger connection with the Henley community, and create opportunities for us both inside and outside of school. If anyone has any problems, ideas, or just wants to have a chat please don't hesitate to talk to any of us around school, this is what we're here for!

### Evie



Hi, I'm Evie and I'm one of the head students for this year! Part of the reason I wanted to be head student is to help bring the school community back together, especially after the tough last few years we've had!

I also wanted to be head student because I want to help students' voices to be heard and to always be able to help when people need it! One of my ideas is to do fundraising for many different charities through Inter-house competitions, year competitions and many other fun events!

### George

Hi there! My name is George and I am one of the three head students for this year! I wanted to be a head student in order to have a larger impact on the school community, and to be able to have my ideas heard. I would like to bring a friendly face, communication and a different perspective to my role as head student. One of my ideas for improving the school is to reintroduce student vs teacher sports events. I think this would help build even further on the community between teachers and students in Gillotts and add a competitive edge! I look forward to improving the school for the remainder of my time at Gillotts!



## Darwin News

### Tutee of the Term

DCAJ: Johnny Whitbread

DFD/HK: Olivia Vines

DPJY: Bella Fooks

DFMW: Ava Pickard

DJLG: Millie Le Beigge

DADT: Emma Geleta

DDI: Tomaz Mitan

DRD/NFD: Fran LLOYD

DCHA/CJW: Charlotte  
Hodgekinson

DGS: Manouka Vogel



## Orwell News

### Tutee of the Term



OHRW: Jessie Duncan

OJKL: Miley MacNab

OTWN: Isla Hallett

OACM: Mathilde Faivre

OGDL: Eva-Mariia Pavliuk

OAD/AB: Angelika Gwiazda

OBLF: Milo Asbridge

OCG: Freya Wall

OHJS/SEL: Lucy Birkett

OPCM/TL: Arun Niththiyanathan

## Pankhurst News

### Tutee of the Term

PBJB/ELD: Jamie Taylor

PNGK: Bisan Musa

PSJW: Ayah Musa

PKLO/CLF: Maggie Mattingly

PWJH: Charlotte Carpenter  
Buckett

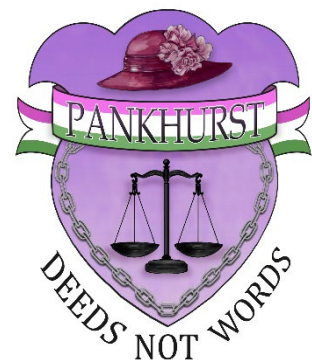
PGDM: Tilly Massey

PCLM/JTP: Elsa Bruun

PSMS/HLM: Christobel Irvine

PHMJ/JJB: Maddie Hepworth

PTAG: Natalia Chochlinska





## KS3 Celebration of Success Evening

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, we were delighted to host the KS3 Celebration of Success Evening for the first time since 2019. Over 91 students from years 7, 8 and 9 were nominated for awards for their achievements over the last academic year. Awards were given for effort, progress and achievement both inside and outside of school. Many congratulations to Cameron in Year 9 who won the The Stevens award for resilience, to Alice who won the Duke of Edinburgh award, and to Jemima in Year 9 who won the overall KS3 Student of the Year award.

As well as the presentations, we enjoyed outstanding musical performances from Year 9 students Felix, Alice and Amelie. Alongside this we welcomed magician James Rayner, who inspired us all with his talk on dealing with failure as well as amazing us with his fantastic magic skills.

We are very proud of all of our performers and winners of awards this year, a huge credit to Gillotts.



## Y6 Primary School Pioneer Weeks

This term, we welcomed over 200 Year 6 students from 24 different primary schools to Gillotts, as part of our Pioneer induction experience. They spent three days with us and had the opportunity to find out first hand what it is like to be in a secondary school, in preparation for their first day in September. They had taster lessons, an orienteering session around our school site and an opportunity to use the resources in the OLC (Open Learning Centre), as you can see below. They spent time with a form tutor and also with our Heads of House.

Our Year 7 students acted as guides, taking Year 6 to their lessons, and Year 10 students supported them at break and lunch, with team building games. In the Pioneer PE taster lesson, our students became the teachers, explaining and modelling the activities. We had such positive feedback about how our students supported the Pioneers and we are really proud of the way they conducted themselves. Well done and thank you to all those involved.



We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September.

## Year 11 Prom

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Year 11 celebrated the end of their GCSE exams and indeed their time at Gillotts in style with their Prom, held at Badgemore Park. It was a wonderful evening, filled with fancy cars, impeccably dressed young adults, music, fun, magic courtesy of James and much more. This year group have been on a huge journey over the last few years, but dealt with all the obstacles admirably, and we wish them all the very best for the future and what that may bring.



## Year 7 Skern Lodge Trip

Our summer term started off with our annual Year 7 trip to Skern Lodge. We took over 130 students who were very excited but also quite anxious as for many of them they had missed out on their Year 6 trips so it was their first time away from home. We usually go in April but this year we went in May and the weather was really kind to us and we had two days of sunshine and warm weather which made a big difference. During the weekend the students took part in a variety of activities such as surfing, archery, scavenger hunt, mini Olympics, swimming, assault course, high ropes, crate stacking. Many of them overcame fears of heights and achieved things they didn't think they could, which was great to see. Their confidence grew, new friends were made and I think all the students had a great time. A big thank you as well to all the staff who gave up their weekend to support the trip - without which it would not have been able to run.



Hayley Rogers  
Head of PE



## Year 9 Woodlands Trip

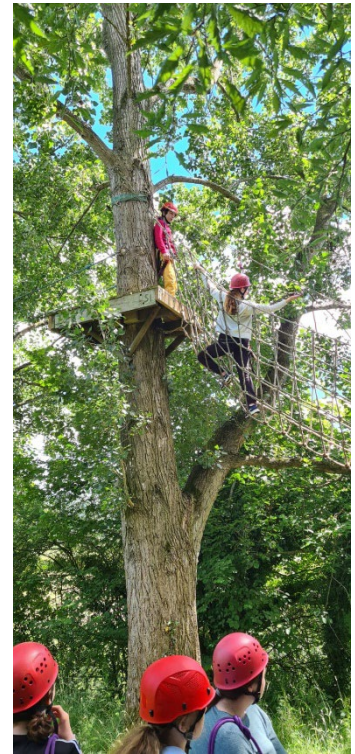
Following on from the Year 10 Woodlands outdoor activities trip which we ran in December 2021, 48 Year 9 students were able to participate in this trip in early July. This involved travelling to Glasbury-on-Wye, just outside the Brecon Beacons National Park, for five days of activities.

These activities included caving, canoeing, climbing, gorge walking and mountain walking. While the activities were both physically and mentally challenging, the students really rose to the challenge. They behaved impeccably and really gave their all throughout the trip.

The students were also kept very busy in the evening both helping out with duties in the dining room but also participating in team building and challenge activities. The students were given lots of opportunities to really push themselves, developing a wide range of leadership skills as well as working to support all the members of their activity groups.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff who accompanied us on the trip - Mr Laugher, Mr Spruyt and Mrs Smith.

Dr Newbold



## Year 8 Lulworth Cove Trip

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the Geography Department took Year 8 on a field trip to see Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. To complement our topics of Tourism and Coasts, the trip was an excellent opportunity for students to visit this amazing landscape and see some wonderful examples of coastal landforms in real life. We had a successful trip with great feedback - one student commented:

*"On our trip to Lulworth Cove, we saw lots of great sights. First, we walked to Stair Hole, there were many informative signs telling us about the views. Something that was very visible was the Lulworth Crumple - folded limestone rock layers. After that we walked up the cliff, it was a long, hot walk to the top but the view was incredible! When we reached the top, we had our lunch with the other group. It got very rainy but then it was sunny when we started walking again. Finally, we walked down to Durdle Door; everyone took photos as it is a World Heritage Site and was beautiful. On the walk back, we got an ice cream because it was very hot. It was a brilliant trip that everyone will remember!" Millie Yr 8.*



## PE Update

### Rounders

We haven't had as many rounders games this year as we normally do - however we have still had a successful season with some great results in the area tournaments.

Our Year 7, 9 and 10 teams all qualified for the County Event which was held at Radley College on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Here we were up against all the other area winners so there was some tough opposition. We had a great day with our Year 7 team making the final where they were beaten but played really well - so came home with the silver medal. Our Year 10 team won bronze and our Year 8 team came 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Cricket

In the area cricket tournaments our Year 9 team came third and the Year 8 team came 5<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the Year 7 tournament got cancelled and our Year 10s were unable to play.

We have also been fortunate enough to have Henley CC coaches coming in again during lesson time working with students in Year 7, 8 and 9.

### Athletics

In Athletics we did really well in the South Oxfordshire Area Athletics, which took place at Tilsley Park in Abingdon on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May - it was a very successful day, the students were excellent and many of them were chosen to compete in the county athletics event on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The results were as follows:

U13 Girls – 4th

U13 Boys – 4th

U15 Girls – 1st

U15 Boys – 1st

U17 Girls – 1st

U17 Boys – 1st



### Overall Team Champions

Every single student did their bit whether they came first, last or somewhere in the middle and **once again** we were the only school to enter 2 students into **every single** event in **every year group** – totalling 132 entries. It was a very successful day and all the students did themselves and Gillotts proud. Their behaviour was impeccable and their support for each

other, their willingness to participate in any event if needed and their drive to do well for the school was great to see – the students were brilliant.



Following on from this event we also competed in the area quadkids and super 6's for Years 7, 8 and 9/10 from which we qualified for the County event in the Year 7 and 8 - we also won the Year 10 event - but unfortunately they don't have a county event this year.

Day	Date	Year Group	Against	Result
Wednesday	14th June	Year 7 Quadkids	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 1st Boys - 2nd Team - 1st
Thursday	23rd June	Year 10 Super 6's	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 1st Boys - 1st Team - 1st
Tuesday	28th June	Year 8 Quadkids	South Oxfordshire	Girls - 3rd Boys - 2nd Team - 2nd



The county event for the Year 7s and 8s also took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Radley College - which we did really well in with our Year 7 team coming 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 schools and our Year 8s coming second winning the silver medal - so another successful day for our athletics teams.



The summer sports were finished off with our own school sports day - with the field events held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July and the track events held on the afternoon of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July. All the houses have been out trialling for events and there was a real buzz about it this year as the students were really excited - especially after not being able to hold a proper sports day for the last two years.

The final results for our own sports day will be read out in final assembly on the last day of term.

So, all in all another excellent summer term of sport - so many successes from all year groups with over 200 students being involved in one if not more of the sports events that took place.



Now after a summer off, the PE department will be looking to replicate this success in the autumn term with Hockey, Rugby, Cross country and triathlon competitions taking place.

Hayley Rogers  
Head of PE





## Gillotts Summer Concert - The Hottest Show in Town!

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July the Music Dept put on the first Summer Concert since 2019 and the first concert for many of our performers due to the hiatus of COVID.

This term has been a busy one with rehearsals and preparations. Miss King worked tirelessly with Clarinet Choir and Musical Theatre to produce some really wonderful music. Mr Bull, as ever, has worked wonders with Orchestra and their performances were perfect for the evening. The Choir had been working with Mrs David to pull off some entertaining performances! All the performers came together to unite in a great finale! We have been so pleased to see such enthusiastic participation from all our soloists and we think that they all show real promise for future performances too. With treat performances from some of our future Year 7 students as well as some faces from the past, the evening was a true celebration of Music at Gillotts!

It is the final concert for both Mrs David and Mr Bull as we are both leaving to move on to pastures new and we would like to thank students and parents for their continued support over the past seven years to enable us to produce high quality performances; we have had some really memorable occasions.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy summer and to all our musicians, keep up the good work - we'll be keeping in touch to hear all about how you're getting on!!

## PTA Update

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July saw the return of the Summer BBQ after a two year gap due to Covid restrictions. The Gillotts Parents' Association committee would like to thank everyone who attended for making it such a fantastic evening. We think that this may have been our busiest BBQ evening so far. We were so busy that we sold out of burgers twice and had to make two trips for more. The weather was absolutely perfect and it was brilliant to see so many families of current and future students enjoying the amazing grounds at Gillotts. As usual the inflatable assault course was the highlight of the evening for both parents and students. Not only did we enjoy the evening but we also raised some money to enhance the students' time in school.



Belo are a few photos of the evening. Unfortunately it was so busy that there was little time for taking photos!

The Gillotts Parents' Association committee is a small group of parents that run a small number of events each year. Our main event is the Quiz night that is held in November each year and parents

and staff compete for first place. We also hold an annual BBQ (weather permitting) and run bars at various school shows. From September we will be starting second hand uniform sales. The Committee meets at most once a term at most so being a committee member isn't a huge commitment. During covid we didn't meet regularly or hold events and as a result we were unable to attract new committee members to replace the committee members whose children have moved on to the next phase of their education. We are now rebuilding the committee so we have enough capacity to run events. If you would like to join us at PA meetings or would like further information please email us at [gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com).

We hope to see you soon  
Naomi and Caroline  
Gillotts PA joint chairs



## Yr5 Trinity Science Show

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, Mrs Tristem and Mrs Moritmer delivered a science show to the Year 5 students at Trinity school. This included demonstrations of elephant's toothpaste, flame tests and metal reactions. The students carried out pH testing and a few were brave enough to try the Van der Graff generator and watch the effects on their hair! Students really enjoyed the show and were inspired by the wonders of science.



## Eco Committee Update

Hello from the Eco Committee!

In hopes of improving the school and wider society for all of us, we aim to achieve a Green Flag Award by the end of the next academic year.

What this actually entails is different teams within the eco-committee focussing on one of the three topics we have selected from within ten: biodiversity, litter and healthy living. We will also aim to share the fun by holding tutor competitions and encouraging students to get involved during assemblies and Green Week in September!



I joined the Eco Committee with the aim of making a contribution towards saving the rapidly deteriorating environment, as did many others. Overall, we hope that more of us can engage in making the environment a little bit healthier for everyone living on planet Earth, one plant at a time.

Lara

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Many congratulations to the 138 Bronze award students who completed their expeditions in June. We were impressed by them. Several have also completed their Bronze award sections - volunteering, physical and skill, and many are very nearly there.

Bronze award needs to be completed to go on to Silver, although it is possible to join for Silver award. We hope that many of the Year 9 students this year go on to work on their Silver award in Year 10. For this they need to complete the three sections for slightly longer durations and 3 day, 2 night hikes. See the website [DofE.org](http://DofE.org) for full details.



A reminder for anyone registered for Bronze award and who did not take part in the expedition that here is still time to complete the certificate of achievement. Please email [DofE@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:DofE@gillotts.org.uk) if you have any questions. Emails will be checked weekly over the holidays.

Mrs Michael

### Nuala on doing her DofE

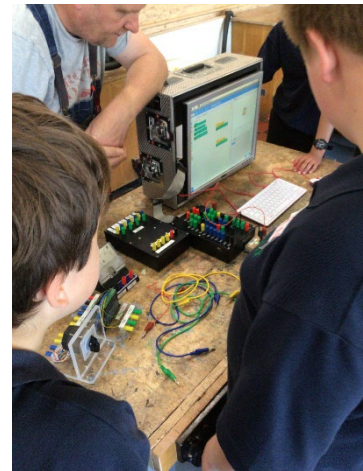
*My DofE experience has ultimately improved me as a person. When I first started on the practice expedition, I was worried about the impossible idea of completing such a long journey with such weight on my back; being with my friends made me forget it all and as we went on it all became easier. I felt so proud of myself after it. DofE is by no means easy, it requires determination and commitment, but doing it is a huge achievement and brings a great feeling of accomplishment.*



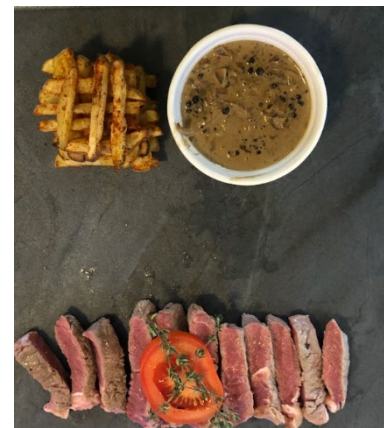
## DT Club Update - EV3 Programming & Robotics Lab

Huge thanks to Mr Howard and Mr Pentecost for taking time to prepare and deliver these exciting new Robotics club sessions this term. The clubs will continue from September 2022 and all students are welcome.

Mrs Wakefield



## Year 10 GCSE Food preparation and Nutrition



## Art Department Update

Faces have been the focus for this term. Year 7 have been looking at African masks and the ceramic faces made by Kimmy Cantrell. Bruno Del Zhou's chaotic and mismatched photo sculptures have inspired Year 8. Year 9 have worked really hard on their self portraits. Here are some examples of their amazing work.

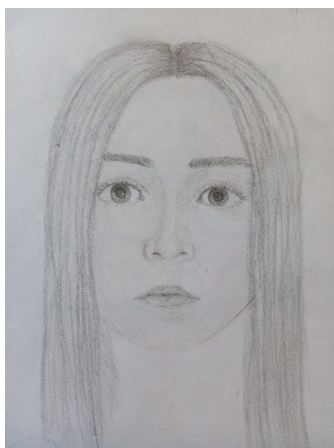
Year 7 ceramic masks



Year 8 Mixed media faces



Year 9 self portraits





## JUNIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE

In May this year we entered Year 10 Physics students into the British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge. Over 10,800 Year 10 students from around the UK participated in the competition. The idea of the competition is to challenge students to use ideas about physics and logical thinking to solve real world problems. We are so proud of their achievements and hope that they will use their certificates as evidence of their thinking and problem solving skills on their CVs or personal statements.

### **Results**

#### **Commendation**

Lara; Luc; Christian; Liliana; Bronte; Angus; Henry; Acer; Matthew; Wiktorja; Freddie; Oliver; Dorian; Tom; Beka; Izabel; Ben.

#### **Bronze**

Anna; Freya; Amelie; Sofia; Charlotte; Harvey; Serena; Zara; Anna; Zaira; Jack; Ellen; Nina; Annie; Bee; Jessica; Edward; Holly; Zahra; Manouka; Bethan; Honor; Imogen; Joe; Gaby; Vanessa; Ellena; Maude; Charlie; Tar; Natasha; Bryony; Lucy; Kaia; Suhana; Lucy; Flo; Marina; Noa; Safa; Ruben; Diya; Viggo; Charlotte; William; Dexter; Olivia; Annabelle; Nicole; Sam.

#### **Silver**

Mark; Evie; Lucas ilson; Archie; Layla; George; Molly; Tom.

#### **Gold**

Ren; Fabian; Beatrice; Arun; Ben; Billy.

## Library News

### Book Club

Book Club is open to all Year groups but is mainly attended by students in Years 7, 8 and 9. We meet on Wednesday lunch-time in the library. The set-up is informal and mainly it is a time to talk about books and writers that we enjoy, rather than reading the same book as a group.

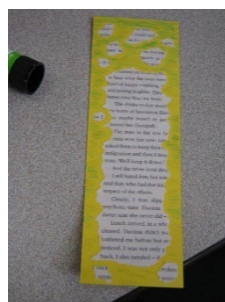
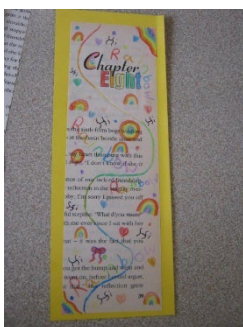
We have enjoyed a 5 x 5 activity, imagining a situation in which you have to think of 5 fictional characters to invite to dinner and plan the menu for them, or 5 places in books that you would like to visit.

We did recently all read 'I am the Minotaur' by the award-winning author Anthony McGowan. This is on the theme of bullying and friendship and coming to find new ways of forging friendships in school. We also created a display based on one of the Greenaway nominated books, 'Too Much Stuff' by Emily Gravett. This gave us the opportunity to think about wants and needs and to consider the wider issues of re-use and recycling.



Students have had the opportunity to vote on books for the top 10 of the National Children's Book Award. Less regular members Owen in Year 8 and Isaac in Year 7 submitted reviews to be included in portfolios to be presented to the winning authors and illustrators of 'The Highland Falcon Thief', the winning book in the middle grade category. Penny White also designed a word cloud for this book. We have also thought about recycling in a wider sense and enjoyed book-crafting, making book marks and other items from old books. On World Book Day, we had a special meeting combining Eco Club and Book Club members and turned old magazines into new stories.

For World Book Day, long-standing member Tilly in Year 9 created a favourite book review sheet on google for staff to fill in and share.



Some book marks designed in Book Club

Here are some thoughts from some of the members on what they have enjoyed about Book Club:

### Danny, Year 7

*This year I have thoroughly enjoyed Book Club. Although the activities are fun, the people and teachers are what makes Book Club what it is. One of my favourite memories of Book Club is World Book Day, due to the large turnout and sense of community. Another fond memory was making a display about a book called 'Too much stuff' which is quite a silly book that has a serious moral.*

*Thank you, Mrs Seddon, for making this possible.*

**Penny, Year 7**

*I have really enjoyed Book Club over the last year. I joined it the first or second term of school and enjoyed it. In Book Club I have been helping to make drawings of books and other things for displays which is fun! We also did a group read and I enjoyed the book. I have been advised to read several books like 'Wink' by Rob Harrell which I have all found brilliant. Book Club is really good fun and I have enjoyed it this year.*

**Tilly, Year 9**

*I have been attending Book Club since I was in Year 7 and I have really enjoyed every session. There have been lots of fun activities such as group reads and new books to review, and there are always lots of great arts and crafts activities!*

**Eco Club**

Some thoughts from Edie and Mathilde in Year 8 on our activities this year:

*Hi! This year in eco-club, we made lots of progress- in the garden and online! In the garden, we managed to re-build all of our beds (for plants and flowers)- and also planted many things, like: beans, many types of flowers, and mini cacti! We have also placed practical things in the garden, such as a rain water butt that has managed to stay very full, a bird bath- and somewhat of a bug-house. Edie*



*This year, in eco club, we have been planting different types of flowers and plants in the gateway garden. We have also made a blog about eco club and we have created a google slide explaining about the environment that has been shared during assembly. Overall, I have really enjoyed Eco club and I will be carrying on next year. Mathilde*

We have also created multiple things outside of the garden, like a full powerpoint of what is going on in earth, including deforestation- our problem with bees (and other animals), and what is causing global warming. This was to be used in an assembly for the school.

Finally, we also did inter-club activities- like flower hunts in spring and bug spotting activities in case anyone feels like relaxing in creative fun.' Our club has grown and developed this year. Many of the original Year 8 members, who started the club in summer 2021 when they were in Year 7, have stayed with us and been joined by new Year 8 and Year 7 students.



Some exciting projects have included helping to plant hedges given to the school by the Woodland Trust, setting up a google site to showcase our work, constructing a wormery and sowing new seeds in the greenhouse. We are growing beans, nasturtiums, flowers and a few herbs including parsley, rosemary, thyme and lavender.



Each week we talk about recycling and environmental issues such as not wasting water, thinking about palm oil in shop bought products and buying products with recyclable packaging. Students all bring their packed lunch in very imaginative and eco-friendly packaging. We work on some of the challenges set by <https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/>

We have the support of Greener Henley and have a regular volunteers joining us for some of our meetings. Cathy Notaras has been a great inspiration and support. Mrs Samyui-Adams, mother of Olivia in Year 8, has also volunteered and helped us in the garden. Students take photos of flowers and wildlife in their own gardens and on weekend and holiday walks and share these in the group.

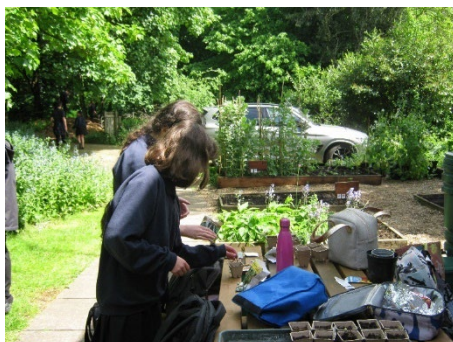
We are working with Eco Committee and Mrs Michael to set up a stall for Great Big Green Week in Henley in September. Look out for more information next term.

Some members have also joined the Eco Committee, which is working towards gaining Eco status for the school.



Our Eco Pledge Tree, which lives in the library

Here are some photos of our activities and observations in the Gateway garden and school grounds over the past year:



### **Volunteers in the Library**

This year some Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze candidates have enjoyed doing their volunteer work in the library. Our volunteers this year have been:

Tilly, Flo, Sophie, Kirsten and Clara. In addition, Sophie has been volunteering for the sheer love of it!

Volunteers have enjoyed changing our blackboard displays, cutting out and putting up bunting and helping with other display boards. They have also helped to label books as well as shelving and tidying books and rearranging furniture when needed for Pioneer group sessions in the library.

Tilly says:

*I began volunteering in the library at the start of Yr 9, and later on I used it as part of my Duke of Edinburgh volunteering section. The things I have been doing to help in the library include writing on the blackboard, shelving books, helping put displays up and writing the labels for the spines of books. I have really enjoyed helping out in the library.*



## 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

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Thursday 21 December 2023

Friday 19 July 2024

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