





Beyond
the Classroom



Extract from School Prospectus

The vigour and variety of life outside the classroom are both a cause and a symptom of a happy and thriving community at Wallingford School. The school is very active after lessons with a number of clubs and teacher-led sessions.

Some subjects, such as Geography and History, require field work studies, and we have run successful trips to Iceland, Morocco and Ypres.

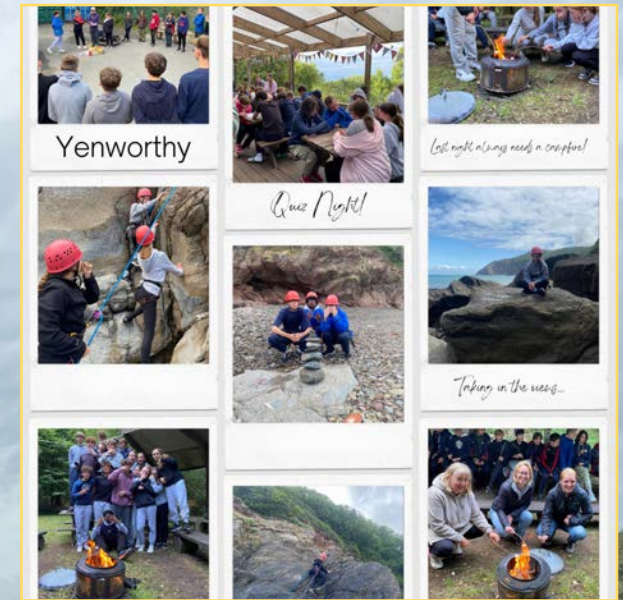
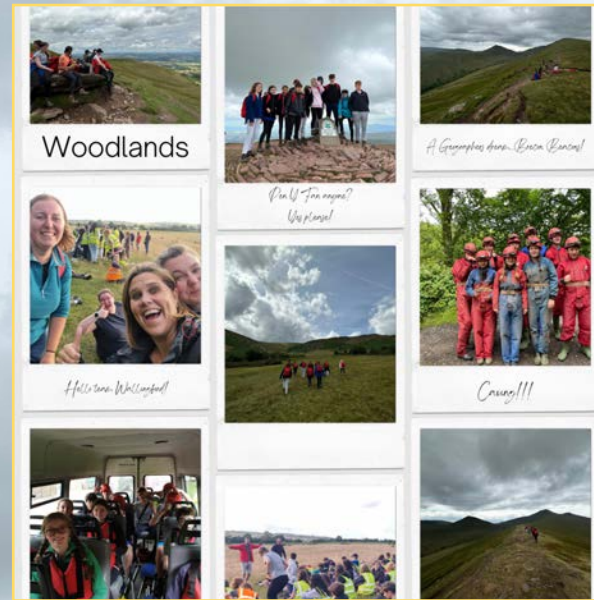
The Languages department has a tradition of visits and trips to France and Germany. There is a four-day trip to France offered in Year 8 and Year 7 students spend a summer day in Boulogne or Aachen.

Some trips are just for fun and include days out to theme parks or paintballing, evening trips skating or bowling and residential visits to a number of centres around the country.

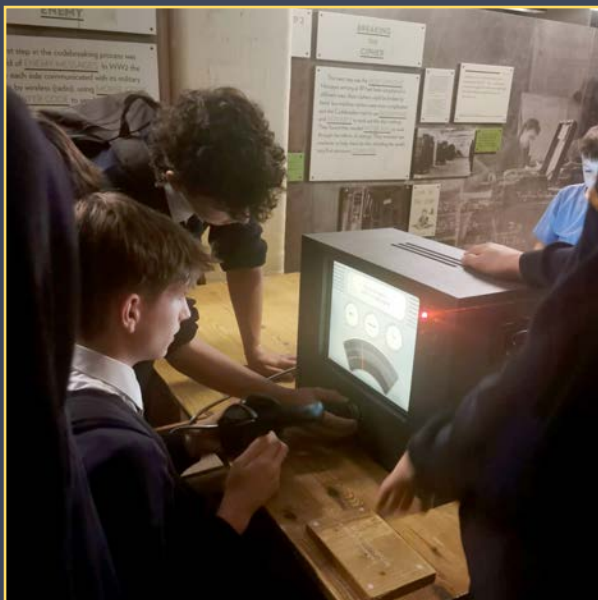
We have recently relaunched our Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and it is thriving.

The opportunities for performing Music, Dance and Drama are outstanding and have gained the school a strong reputation. Lunchtimes and after school are filled with practices for the Bass Group, the String Group, Choir, Wind Group and Orchestra.

Departments often receive visitors and outside experts. We take advantage of our close proximity to Oxford, Reading and London universities.



Year 9 Residential, July 2023



Code Breaking at Bletchley Park (Oct 2023)
- Year 11 Computer Science



Kew Gardens, London (June 2023)
- Year 7 Geography



#INWED23 HR Wallingford (June 2023)
- Year 10 Girls Outreach Event



Boulogne (March 2023)
- Year 8 French



Aachen (June 2023)
- Year 8 German



ILYMUN (February 2023)
- Sixth Form

Trip Diary: German Exchange

Extract from Summer Newsletter: July 2023



Over the course of our week, we embarked on a journey of cultural immersion, exciting trips, and new friendships in the beautiful country of Germany, and our twin town 'Bad Wurzach'.

Brimming with anticipation and excitement, we arrived in Germany after a coach journey to the airport and a short flight from Heathrow to Munich. On that evening, we were warmly greeted by our host families where I instantly felt at home, setting the stage for an unforgettable exchange experience.

On Sunday, we spent a day with our host families. They took us to places such as mini golf, swimming, hiking, and to meet extended family. This was a great opportunity to settle in and get to know your family.

Over the week, our families introduced us to many traditional German foods such as 'Abendessen', 'Knuppelkuchen', and 'Sauerkraut'!

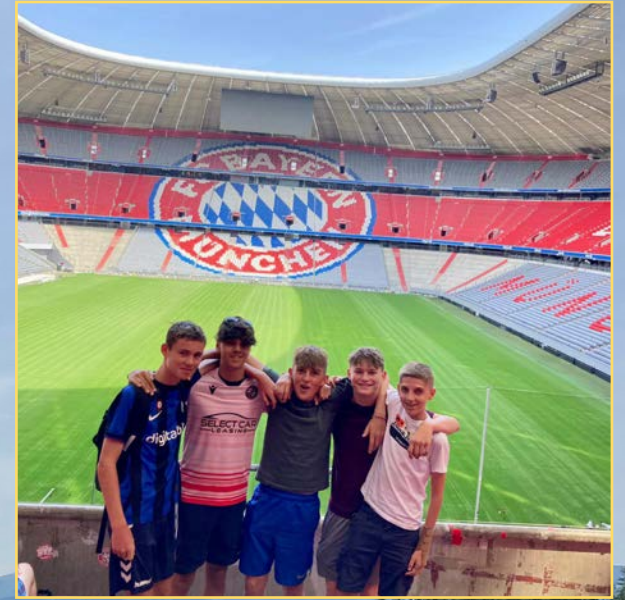


Mouthwatering pretzels and kebabs graced my mouth many times, but the crème de la crème was Currywurst and Back Forest gateau. Yum yum!

Monday:

During our time in Germany, we had the opportunity to attend classes at Gymnasium Salvatorkolleg, where we not only sharpened our language skills but also gained valuable insights into their educational system. Interacting with German students and teachers allowed us to forge connections where language would not be a barrier! It was interesting to see how their culture is different – especially in schools, where they are paperless, only using iPads! After the morning in school, we went on a historic walk around Bad Wurzach to look at their castle and town hall.

(Please read more in the Summer Newsletter)



Stars Reward Trips

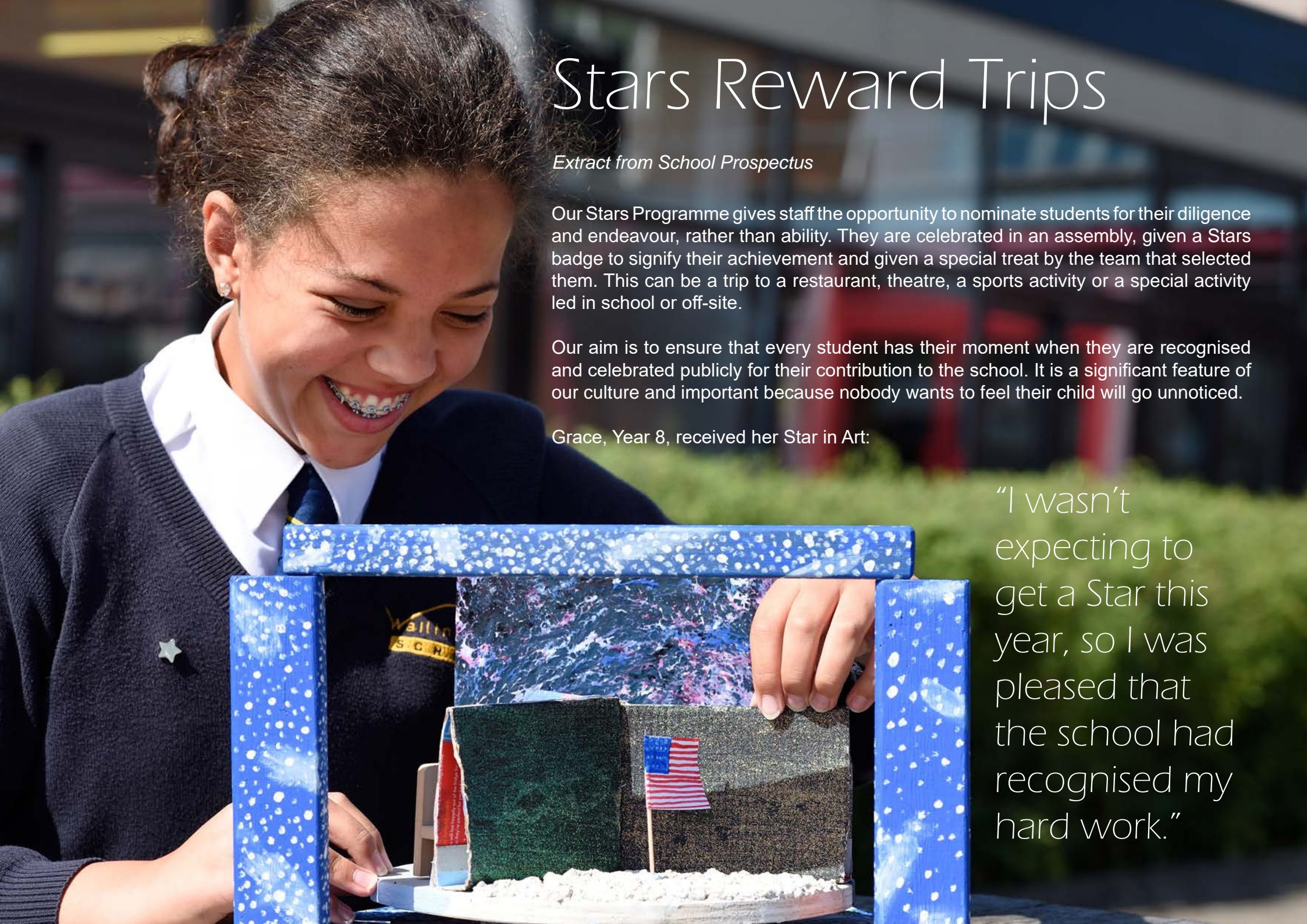
Extract from School Prospectus

Our Stars Programme gives staff the opportunity to nominate students for their diligence and endeavour, rather than ability. They are celebrated in an assembly, given a Stars badge to signify their achievement and given a special treat by the team that selected them. This can be a trip to a restaurant, theatre, a sports activity or a special activity led in school or off-site.

Our aim is to ensure that every student has their moment when they are recognised and celebrated publicly for their contribution to the school. It is a significant feature of our culture and important because nobody wants to feel their child will go unnoticed.

Grace, Year 8, received her Star in Art:

“I wasn’t expecting to get a Star this year, so I was pleased that the school had recognised my hard work.”





Gulliver's Land - All Stars (July 2023)



Silverstone - Term 1/2 Cohort (Feb 2023)



MAD Museum - Year 7/8 (Jan 2023)



Wet & Wild - PE Stars



Escape Room - Skills Stars



Dr Dolittle - Expressive Art Stars

Duke of Edinburgh Award



We received our Duke of Edinburgh Award licence in March 2020, and have since launched the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, which have been incredibly successful.

The award is a superb opportunity for the students to develop a new skill, improve on something physical, give back to the community through volunteering and complete expeditions.

University admissions tutors and employers alike welcome applicants having completed the scheme, as it shows that young people have had to show initiative, creativity and leadership in completing the four different skill areas for their award.

Here are a few photographic highlights:



Service Opportunities



We are proud to be so close geographically to the military base of RAF Benson. The base is a support helicopter main operating base working within the Joint Helicopter Command. We currently have 37 Service students who have at least one parent serving in our armed forces. Our Service Champion at Wallingford School, Mr Lyons, supports our service children and families.

We create opportunities for students interested in service careers. Pictured is a visit from the British Marines on the 15th September 2022. The British Army are holding an information event in school on Friday 6th October 2023.

Art in the Community

Our Art Department has a very active role within the community - this might be an exhibition in the Town Hall, a community mural for Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, artwork produced for our local hospital ward or a piece of performance art for a festival.

Most recently, students led an equinox procession for 'Henge 2022' with the creatively named 'Gareth the Mammoth' - this was a full sized mammoth made by a group of student volunteers and staff.

"Seventeen students were needed to steer this colossus as we led 300 people to the festival site. Gareth the Mammoth looked beautiful, the weather was kind and we had a LOT of fun."

- Mr Bowen, Head of Art





Sports Clubs

Extract from School Prospectus

There is an extensive programme of extra-curricular sport that takes place at lunchtimes and after school. Competitive sportsmen and women can also compete in teams against students from other houses or as part of a fixture list against other schools.

Some students find their way to elite sport via clubs, which is a process we are keen to support. To this end we have released elite athletes for premiership football clubs, cycling, rowing, cricket, tennis, diving and martial arts.

Our sports club timetables change on a termly basis.



Year 7 Football Club



Year 7 Netball Club

Performing Arts

Extract from School Prospectus

Wallingford School has a tradition of high quality public performance, be it through the Christmas Production, Spring Concert, Spotlight Dance Show, or appearances at community events. Some young people with particular talent are released each year to take part in professional performances around the region. Expressive Arts subjects are all available from Year 7 through to A Level.

In Music, students develop an understanding of a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions, as well as compose and improvise with a variety of instruments. Musicians have the opportunity to take part in the Bigg Band, South Oxfordshire Saturday Morning Music Service, the Oxfordshire Senior Schools Orchestra, County Youth Orchestra and County Youth Big Band. A number of our students go on to read music at universities and conservatoires.

In Drama (Theatre Studies at A Level), students concentrate on devising their own pieces and finding ways of bringing scripts to life. They also use visual and written stimuli to generate mini productions of their own to perform to their peers. There are public performances as part of examination work at GCSE and Sixth Form.

In Dance, students develop their performance skills, working as individuals and in groups. As they move up the school, they focus increasingly on their own choreography. The Spotlight Dance Show is an annual opportunity in school for students to celebrate dance in front of an audience, while many choose to combine their studies with membership of local dance groups and productions.



Recital Concert (July 2023)



String Group (September 2023)

School Production: The Wizard of Oz - The Musical (December 2022)



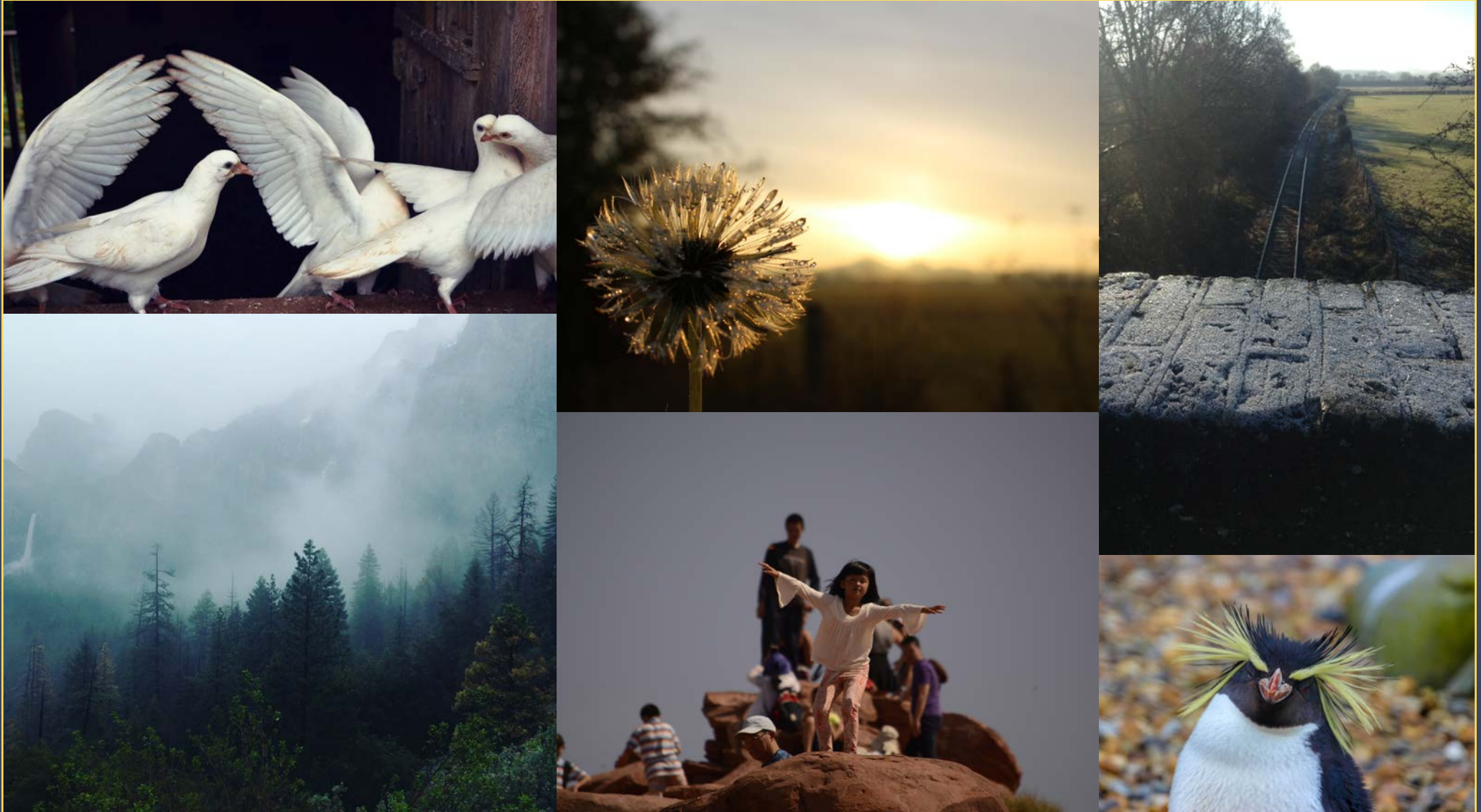
Merchant Taylors' Company Opportunities



Bigg Band performing at the Merchant Taylors' Company Remembrance Concert (November 2018)

Wallingford School is proud to be a part of the Merchant Taylors' Associated Schools, which means that the Merchant Taylors' Company offer a number of extra opportunities throughout the school year. One of our annual favourites, and very popular amongst staff and students is the Merchant Taylors' Photography Competition - each year we are set a new photographic theme.

Here are a few past competition examples:





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