

# Wallingford School Newsletter

Summer Edition - July 2024



# Contents

Headteacher's Message  
Wallingford School Alumni Row-Past  
Digital Wellbeing Conference at Merchant Taylors' Hall  
Kew Gardens in Pictures  
UKMT Maths Challenge  
Rotary Club 'Student of the Term'  
Residential in Pictures  
Unique Art Awards  
Wallingford Art Trail  
Babble: Art Exhibition  
Art in Pictures  
Rowing Success  
Summer Sports in Full Swing  
Sports Day in Pictures  
Young Carers  
German Exchange  
Year 8 Caen Trip  
Swanage in Pictures  
Read Around the World  
Human Careers Library  
Paultons Park in Pictures  
House Events  
House Messages  
House Results  
House Tug of War

# Headteacher's Message



Year 9 Residential, July 2024

At the end of long and busy school year we celebrate everything that we do, and are, as a school. The values of “able and qualified” permeate everything which takes place at Wallingford School. Great opportunities and experiences abound for our young people, with staff who are willing to go “the extra mile” to ensure that they happen, while academic excellence and great teaching and learning are non-negotiables and the hunger and determination of our young people to succeed are defining characteristics of our cohorts.



This is all to be celebrated because it reflects the identity of Wallingford School and the experience of everyone who is connected with our school community. It is a distinctive and special community and a pleasure to be a part of. Please do enjoy reading this newsletter as it is a wonderful depiction of the life of our school as we head into a well-deserved summer break.

- Mr Marston, Headteacher

# Wallingford School Alumni Row-Past



**Mr Marston recently visited the Henley Royal Regatta for a special event:**

“It was a pleasure to attend the Henley Royal Regatta as a guest of the 1974 Wallingford Schools Boat Club crew to mark the 50th anniversary of their triumph in winning the Britannia Challenge Cup. It was a very significant victory and many others followed for the crew at national and international level. Despite the weather, it was a great day and the spirit and collective joy of being, and rowing, together shone through. We look forward to welcoming the crew and coach (and former Wallingford School teacher) Bruce Grainger to the school in the autumn to talk with students about their achievement.”

Current Wallingford School student Alice Hull (Year 10) stepped in as cox for the anniversary row-past. Mrs Hull tells us, “Alice enjoyed a slightly more relaxing opportunity to cox a crew down the Henley course, after racing with Wallingford RC on Tuesday and Thursday. There was lots of banter in the Wallingford School boat, and with the crew rowing before them, which included their opposition in the 1974 final. Hearing their stories has definitely given Alice a taste for more Henley racing in years to come.”





**Here are further details of the anniversary and event from the club newsletter:**

“On 7th July 1974, Wallingford Schools Boat Club won the Britannia Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. They remain the only junior crew to win this “club” coxed fours event. So dominant were they in the regatta, that they won each round bar one by an “easily” verdict. And as a result, the rowing press speculated whether the WSBC crew would be selected to represent GB at the senior world championships, as well as the junior world’s (where they won the bronze).

“On 7th July 2024, 50 years to the day later, the crew of John Wiggins, Simon Wroe, Bill Lang and Roger Brown celebrated the anniversary of this achievement, by taking part in a row-past up the Henley course during the HRR finals’ day lunch interval. Their coach, Bruce Grainger, and their cox from 50 years ago, Tim Potter, were in attendance also as were many members of their families, all too young to have been there in 1974. Unfortunately Tim is now too tall to shoe-horn into a racing boat, and so one of Wallingford Rowing Club’s current coxes Alice Hull, who herself is at Wallingford School, took charge of them. The current Wallingford School Head, John Marston, was also in attendance as the crew’s guest.

“Tragically, both Roger and Simon had lost their wives in the last month, but both were determined to go ahead with the row-past. They both know that their wives were beaming down on them with pride.”

# Digital Wellbeing Conference at Merchant Taylors' Hall



## Last term, head students Archie and Emily visited Merchant Taylors' Hall for a Digital Wellbeing Conference. Over to Emily for her account of the day:

The Digital Wellbeing Conference on the 24th May was the first event Archie and I attended as head students. Despite an early start to catch the 7am train, we were excited to be back at the beautiful Merchant Taylor's Hall, where we competed in the Livery Academy Awards in December of last year.



The premise of this conference was to explore the challenges, but also opportunities, digital technology presents and to take part in workshops to develop strategies for improving digital wellbeing in our schools.

The first speaker began by discussing the amazing things our devices can do for us; a new use for my phone, I discovered, is the ability to tell when a steak is perfectly cooked! However, we were also reminded that, whilst the assistance and entertainment our devices provide has become an integral part of day-to-day life, it is important to remember they can work against us, and not for us, if we are not careful.

The second talk was sobering, as we heard stories about children and teenagers being coerced and pressured into producing self-generated images. As student leaders, we hope to implement some ideas the speaker gave, such as working with small groups of students and delivering educational sessions to help prevent this exploitation from occurring.

The final talk was given by a clinical psychologist, who encouraged us to reflect on the amount of time we spend on our devices, and informed us about the dangers of 'doom scrolling'. The importance of digital detoxes was emphasised as a way to support our mental health and improve our productivity.

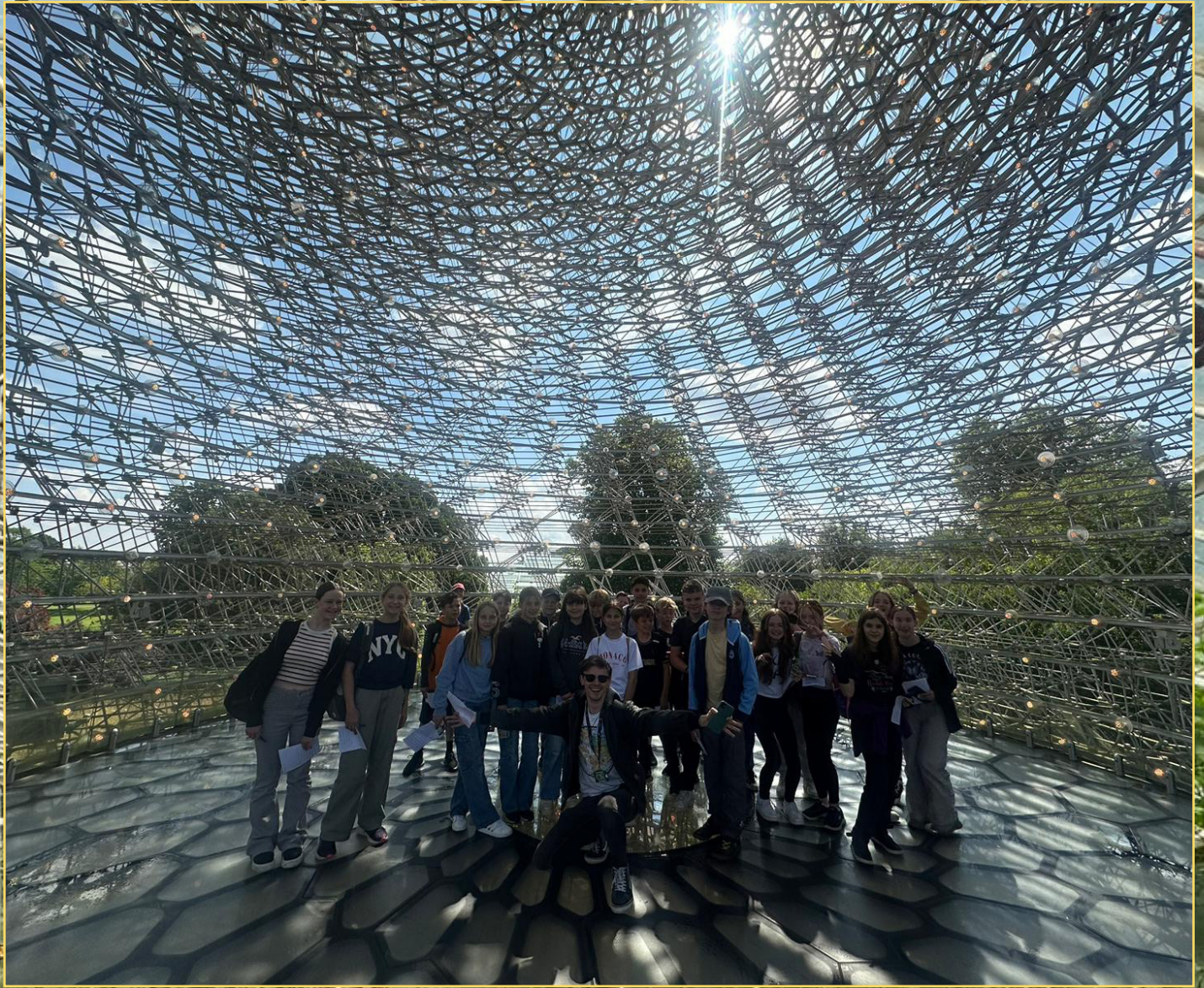
Going forward, the student leaders intend to set up student focus groups to find out what the student view is of the digital landscape and what worries and concerns they have. We will use this information to form part of the groundwork for creating a digital wellbeing charter. We thoroughly enjoyed our day in London and thank the Merchant Taylors' Company for the opportunity to learn more about digital wellbeing.

- Emily Dunn, Year 12

# Kew Gardens in Pictures...









# UKMT Maths Challenge

216 Wallingford School students took part in UKMT maths challenges this year, with plenty of success. The challenges are designed to make students think and use mathematical reasoning in challenging questions. Across the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenges, our students were awarded 26 gold certificates, 53 silver certificates and 65 bronze certificates. Well done particularly to those students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who came into school on an INSET day to take part.

## Junior

Year 7 and 8 students achieved 10 gold, 32 silver and 37 bronze certificates. Benjamin Capo-Bianco, Sam Baker, Daniele Massera, Keizo Somarakis, Caleb Southam, Thomas Carberry, George Ramsay and Jack Johansen got through to the Junior Kangaroo.

## Intermediate

Year 9, 10 and 11 students achieved 11 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze certificates. Raihan Horvat, Joseph Rhodes, Grace Smyth, Jessica Clayton, Joshua Skeels, Celyn Marriot, Matthew Hindle, Rohan Clark and Nazar Mykhailenko qualifying for the Pink and Grey Kangaroos. Callum Reynolds and Charles Mortimer qualified for the Olympiads.

## Senior

Year 12 and 13 students achieved 5 gold, 11 silver and 16 bronze certificates. Douglas Watt, Shona Cummings, Genevieve Bispham, Owen Hill, Matthew Lewis and Thomas Hindle made it through to the Senior Kangaroo.



## Mathematical Olympiad for girls

Six year 13s took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls – a difficult 2.5 hour challenge. They were very successful with 2 certificates of distinction and 2 certificates of merit. Shona Cummings and Lola Gunn were invited to apply for Jane Street's WiSE programme for those who scored highly.



## Team

This year also saw the return of the Team Maths Challenge for the first time since Covid. Four students from years 8 and 9 went to Headington School to participate in 4 rounds of mathematical challenges against other schools. The team did very well and, against stiff competition, came 5th out of 17 schools. Well done to Callum Reynolds, Joseph Rhodes, Tilda Santer and Syrah Delabie. We look forward to continuing to take teams in the future.

Well done to all of those who took part this year and good luck to those participating next year!

- Miss Pratt, Teacher of Mathematics

# Rotary Club ‘Student of the Term’

Over the past couple of terms, Mr Lyons has been asked to nominate a student for the Rotary Club ‘Student of the Term’ award, which celebrates a student for their fundraising efforts.

Last term, Will Hamilton, Year 13, was awarded for his Royal British Legion fundraising, which took him on a journey from a 104km run over the Remembrance ’23 weekend to the London Marathon!

This term, we hand the award over to Oliver Nathanielsz, Year 9, who describes the ‘challenge’ section of his Duke of Edinburgh Award as inspiration for his fundraising effort for the National Autistic Society.

Oliver attended the Rotary Club award ceremony in June and said, “It was an amazing experience meeting everyone at the Rotary Club – they were so welcoming and friendly. We met some really interesting people and they all made me feel at ease when I read out my speech.”

Many congratulations Oliver – we are incredibly proud!

## **Here’s an excerpt from Oliver’s speech:**

In September 2023, Wallingford School offered the opportunity of completing the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. I knew this was something I really wanted to participate in. For those of you unfamiliar with the Duke of Edinburgh award, each attendee must complete three elements - a challenge, a physical activity and volunteering.

I decided to use my love of cricket for physical activity, as I am a regular player for the under 15s and the adult team in Cholsey, along with my dad who is also part of the club. My sister Thea plays football for Cholsey Bluebirds, so I volunteered to help with her training every week along with refereeing her games as and when required.

However, the ‘challenge’ was something I had to really think about. The results of this challenge are what my teacher, Mr Lyons, nominated me for. I decided to train and run the Cholsey Treehouse 10K. As I was under 16, I had to get my dad to run with me, along with my Uncle Joe and Uncle Matt who decided to show their support. As the four of us were going to run, I asked if we could fundraise for the ‘National Autistic Society’. This is because my 5 year old Cousin Noah is autistic; Noah is loving and affectionate, and one of the happiest children you could ever meet - if we were all a little bit like Noah, the world would be a much better place.

My Uncle Matt and Auntie Sophie, Noah’s parents, rely on the National Autistic Society for so much, whether it’s online webinars, watching videos, attending speech & language therapy or learning Makaton signing, so the cause is something that is very close to our hearts.

The training was hard and I used the Macmillan “Couch to 10k” to help. However, in December I had to have emergency lower abdominal surgery, which meant that I could not train for 6 weeks, and it was only three months before my run! As soon as my recovery was done, I was straight back in my running shoes!

It took a while to get back into the swing of things, but as soon as I was fully recovered, I was back into running 5ks, which went from 7 to 9 to 10k in as little as 2 months.

And then, just like that, it was the day of the run - March 24th! I was excited, but scared about how I would do. However, as soon as I met up with my dad and uncles who were doing the run with me, and other family members cheering us on throughout the race, I believed in myself and I completed the run in 1 hour and 8 minutes!



Our initial fundraising target on the Just Giving page was £1,000 and we reached this within 24 hours! And then, after the run, we were at £2,500! I was so surprised, yet I knew there were a lot of people who donated and I am still grateful to this day for all the support.

I had a lot of fun during my experience, although there were some ups and some downs. We finished the fundraising with a final count of £3,020, which is amazing especially as the original target was £1,000! My Uncle Matthew ran the London Marathon in 2022 for the same cause and he raised £3,031. So, as a family it is amazing that we have raised in excess of £6,000 for this amazing cause.

# Residential in Pictures...





# Unique Art Awards



Lizzie, Year 7, has been working with Mrs Williams, Art Technician, over the past couple of months on her entry to the Unique Art Awards (an Art Competition for disabled children between the ages of 7 - 21 years old) with the theme: Landscape.

Lizzie took inspiration from photos she had taken in Castle Meadows, Wallingford, and chose to paint in vibrant colours; they needed to be visually stimulating in order for Lizzie to see the colours properly.

We think this is a wonderful new perspective on a scene we all know in Wallingford - thank you Lizzie, we wish you lots of luck with your entry and can't wait to see what you produce next!





# Wallingford Art Walk



In May, we were really pleased to showcase the work of Martha, Mai, Sonny, Daisy, Jamie, Toby, Millie, Ferne, Poppy, India and Evie as a part of the Wallingford Art Walk that took place during Oxfordshire Art Weeks.

Our students work took pride of place and brightened up some of our leading shop windows with painting, photography and sculpture.

The public response was fantastic - thank you for your kind words and a big round of applause to our talented young artists!





# Babble: Art Exhibition

Following a successful, slick marketing campaign, we were itching to get the Babble started.

Playlist on. Aprons on. It was on.

A truly impressive selection of paintings, sculptures, prints and photography from Wallingford School's most creative minds greeted our art-loving audience. This was sort of art exhibition where you just can't believe the age of the artists and photographers. Work this good? How did they come up with that idea? How long did that take? Has that been done before? How do they make that look like a photograph? How did they do that to a photograph? There were more questions than answers. Just as it should be.

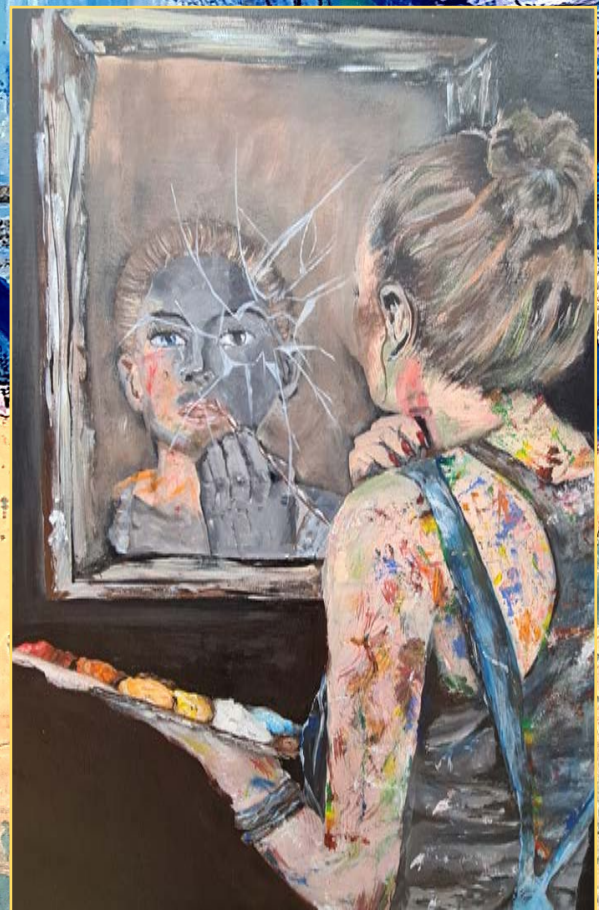


We are already looking forward to next year's exhibition. A special house point goes to the proud dad who got the connection between last year's exhibition name (Never Enough) and this year's. Mr Cooper, we salute you on a night like this...

- Mr Bowen, Head of Art



# Art in Pictures...







# Rowing Success

On the weekend of 13th July, Alice (Year 10) and Lily (Year 11) were part of the Wallingford crew selected to represent GB at the GB v France Rowing Match, L ry-Poses in Normandy. The girls, in a coxed four with Alice coxing and Katrina at stroke along with fellow Wallingford Rowing Club rowers Flo, Lucy and Naomi, won their race and contributed to GB winning the overall match 10 races to 6!



We were told that it was a very exciting weekend and was the first opportunity for the rowers to represent their country. Well done girls!



Back in April, many of our students who row for Wallingford Rowing Club competed in the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in Nottingham.

Harry, Year 11 (who represents Wallingford Rowing Club and Thames Upriver), and partner won bronze in the pairs.





# Summer Sports in

The sun has dared to show its face a few times these past few weeks which means the summer sports fixtures have been in full swing, with rounders, cricket and athletics fixtures for everyone! The cricket sixes have resulted in excitement too, with Year 10 winning against Icknield by 6 runs, and Year 9 winning 2 of their 3 games. Athletics next, with some fantastic performances from some all-round athletes in the Quadkids and Super-Sixes tournaments, with Year 7 boys taking gold and Year 7 girls taking bronze; a huge achievement for a lot of students who pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and had a go at a new discipline.



Before half term, Mr Dodson took the rugby teams to the annual 7s tournament and was super impressed with the performance, despite the wet weather! The Year 8 boys managed to secure the winning plate right at the last moment, with the Year 9s narrowly missing out in the semi-final; a huge well done all round!

Another special mention to Mr Roberts' archery club students, who produced a fantastic set of results at the annual archery tournament at Wallingford Sports Park. Well done to Ed, James, Jack, Joel, Joseph, Shannon and Sam who all placed in a medal position in their individual event.





# Full Swing

Term 6 means Tilsley Park Athletics tournament and, as always, it was a fantastic day with 4/6 of our teams coming in the top 3 overall. We also won over 20 medal positions in each individual event, with a special mention to Nya, Max, Arthur and Ella who came first in their events. A huge well done to every student that came with us, your decorum was incredible and you displayed the perfect balance of competitiveness and sportsmanship that we value at Wallingford School.

And finally, the event of the year... Sports Day! As always, the weather was precarious but it managed to hold off (mostly). After battling through a mixture of events, including our new event for the year, archery, Matilda managed to steal the win! Well done to every single student that participated in an event or filled in for someone else; Sports Day would not be possible without your hard work!



And with that, we wish everyone a lovely summer holiday, we look forward to seeing all your bright and smiling faces in September, ready for a new term of sport!

- Miss Allen, PE Technician

# Sports Day in Pictures...







# Young Carers Champion Award

At Founder's Day this year, a new award was created to recognise the wonderful young carers at Wallingford School. This year, the winner of the Young Carers Champion Award was Lydia in Year 10. Lydia is a proud young carer who goes above and beyond to help spread the word of her fellow hidden superheroes, and is always welcoming to new students at our support group. Lydia is an inspiration to all young carers and we are delighted to give her this award to recognise her efforts.

## Young Carers Support Group

Wallingford School Young Carers Club is moving from September! We will be running on Monday lunchtimes from B12 (the wellbeing room at the back of the library) for our young carers to join us for games, biscuits and a chat. If this time clashes with other clubs you are attending, you are still able to speak to Mrs Emmerson by asking your tutor to email to arrange a catch up.



If your child is a young carer and you would like some additional support, especially during the school holidays, then please get in touch with Be Free Young Carers. They are a fantastic charity who support families, run sessions for young carers and even organize exciting trips and days out. We are able to complete referrals from school, or you can self-refer using their [website](#).



# Young Carers in Schools Award

We are delighted that Wallingford School have achieved the Young Carers in Schools Award. This nationally recognised award is a huge achievement for all involved, as it shows how dedicated Wallingford School is to supporting all of our young carers to ensure they are able to achieve their full potential. We were 1 of only 17 schools who achieved this award. We are so proud to be able to celebrate this award and support these wonderful young people who have a caring role at home.

## Thank you Poppy!

Since September, Poppy Williams, one of our Year 13 students has been helping to run the weekly support sessions. As Poppy's time at Wallingford School comes to an end we would like to say a huge thank you to her for using her Wednesday lunchtimes to help our young carers. We will miss you and wish you well in your new beginnings!

- Mrs Emmerson, Young Carers Lead





# German Exchange



We had the pleasure of welcoming our German Exchange partners from Bad Wurzach in July. They had a fantastic week packed full of visits, including Wallingford Town Council (meeting Cllr. Mark Hoskins), Oxford, London and Portsmouth, topped off with a taster session of rowing courtesy of Wallingford Rowing Club.

A big thank you to all the families who hosted a German student and to Ms Murison, Mr Cross and Ms Prince for hosting a teacher. We couldn't do it without you!



# Year 8 Caen Trip

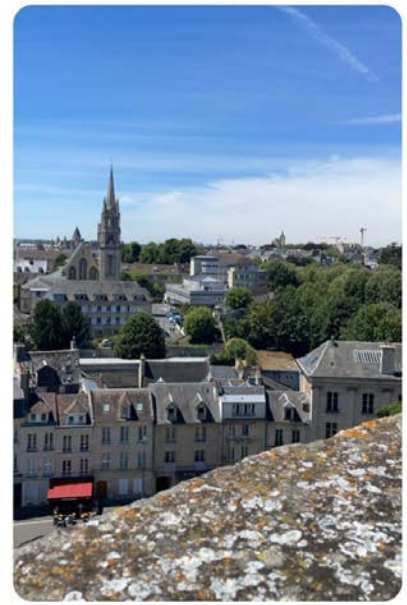
The Languages Department took 78 students to Caen, Normandy for the day in June. This is the first time we have run this trip (it replaces the iconic trip to Boulogne which many parents who are ex-students will remember!) and it was really successful.

We started off the day with a delicious French breakfast in a café and then walked into the city centre where students got to practise their French in the shops and cafés. We then visited Caen Castle which is the inspiration for all the Norman castles in England including Wallingford Castle!

After the castle, we ate lunch in a French restaurant before some more free time and a walk to the supermarket for the last chance to buy presents for families.

Our students were great ambassadors for our school and we will be awarding some prizes to individual students in the near future, but for now I would like to share with you some beautiful photos taken by Annie and Faye.

- Mrs McGarrick, Curriculum Team Leader for Languages



# Swanage in Pictures...









Kai has trained all her life in her father's martial arts school. Though she is looked down upon for being a girl, she proves her courage when assassins launch a ruthless attack on her family. Yet Kai is the inheritor of a dark secret: each month she is transformed into a fox demon, and must hunt and kill a man so she can return to her life as a young woman. As the deaths mount and the townspeople start to voice their suspicions, Kai desperately searches for a way out.



Meanwhile, there is a mysterious girl who shares a secret bond with Kai, and whose love may be the key to breaking her curse...

Inspired by the ancient nine-tailed fox legends of Korea, *The Fox Maidens* is a searing, thrilling fantasy romance told in beautiful, striking graphic art.



The new novel by Carnegie Medal nominated author Jenny Ireland.

Finbar and Molly live next door to each other. When they were children, they spent hours and hours together. They were best friends. Until they weren't. Now 18, Fin and Molly move in very different circles. Molly is popular, pretty, dating the most handsome boy in the whole school. Fin has one friend and he's pretty sure he hates his dad and his little sister. At a party one night, though, they're pulled together in a way neither of them expects and then follows a year that will see them experiencing life-changing challenges, friendships, love and everything in between.

## Our New Manga Section

From Shōnen manga classics, like My Hero Academia, to original English-language manga—the Maximum Ride series.

**Midoriya inherits the superpower of the world's greatest hero, but greatness won't come easy.** What would the world be like if 80 percent of the population manifested superpowers called “Quirks”? Heroes and villains would be battling it out everywhere! Being a hero would mean learning to use your power, but where would you go to study? The Hero Academy of course! Middle school student Izuku Midoriya wants to be a hero more than anything, but he hasn't got an ounce of power in him. With no chance of ever getting into the prestigious U.A. High School for budding heroes, his life is looking more and more like a dead end. Then an encounter with All Might, the greatest hero of them all, gives him a chance to change his destiny...



- Ms Hanley & Mrs Saunders, School Librarians



# Human Careers Library



The Careers Department arranged a Human Library Event for our Year 8 students on Tuesday 2nd July. We welcomed 32 volunteers from a variety of careers who could share their wisdom and experience. Small groups of students had just 5 minutes to find out as much as possible from an employer by asking questions, before moving onto the next one. This kept the event exciting and fast paced but with enough time for students to find out about lots of career pathways and choices. The experience of talking to an adult about their

job makes it more realistic. **Students were asked afterwards what they had learnt about working life and some of their answers are below:**

*In most jobs you need good communication.*

*You travel more than I expected.*

*That there are so many more jobs than anyone could imagine, and the possibilities are endless.*

*It's stressful.*

*The pay is varied much more than I thought.*

*Lots of people didn't aim to go down the path they did or consider it but they ended up in that job.*

*Clients can be difficult to work with.*

*You nearly always work in a team, and that's the best part.*

*You don't get lots of holiday.*

*If your boss is nice, the job is more enjoyable.*

## The following are some quotes from the volunteers:

*It was my pleasure to assist this year, many of the children were very engaged and engaging in the conversation.*

*It was a lovely event to be involved with. It is so interesting speaking with the children and hopefully helping to raise awareness of some careers!*

*They were all very polite and a credit to the school. Four of them even shook my hand!*

*It was very well run and the students are lucky to have been given this opportunity - I wish I'd had it years ago!*

*They asked questions, listened and hopefully got a lot out of the session.*

## We would like to thank the following companies for participating and the individuals who took part:

Creation Theatre, CYT UK, Dalcour Maclaren, Fluor, Fugro Wallingford, Grondon Waste Management, HR Wallingford, JCTR Ltd, LEXICA, Lightfoots Solicitors, Max Associates, Milestone Infrastructure, NHS, Oxford University Press, Probation Service, Proctor & Gamble, QbD Group, RAF F.A., System C, Thames Water, Venners Arboriculture, Wallingford Town Council, Yogaful Minds and 846 Naval Air Squadron - Royal Navy.

## Guest Presentations

The Careers Department has also arranged Guest Presentations to Year Groups. These have included Tony Hood who is a Locations Manager for TV and Film, representatives from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Martin-Baker Aircraft Company.

*- Mrs Ward, Careers Adviser*

## Futures Week - Sixth Form

Thanks to the 29 delegates who volunteered for our Human Library as part of Year 12's Futures Week. There was a real buzz in the sports hall as students learnt about the variety of opportunities available and the often circuitous routes to a fulfilling job.

*- Ms Mummery, Head of Sixth Form*



## Mrs Ward, Careers Adviser

Available term time **Tuesday - Thursday** in school. Please contact her on [wardt@wallingfordschool.com](mailto:wardt@wallingfordschool.com).

She will also be available on **Thursday 22nd August** and **Friday 23rd August** to help with options for the future.

Please visit the [VLE](#) for all the latest careers advice, apprenticeships and information.

# Paultons Park in Pictures...





# House Events



It has been another excellent year for the four Houses. I am always really pleased to see how much the students love being part of their house and competing for House points at events or by collecting as many House points as they can.

This year has seen 37 events on the calendar. What we are really proud of is that there is a competition for everyone to take part in somewhere in the year.

We started the year with a competition for students to design the house logo that would end up being made into a flag and displayed on Sports Day and other events. The faces of the winners when they saw their designs become reality were priceless.



Leading up to the end of Term 1 we had seen a big graffiti wall draw which was hugely popular, code breaking went down a storm with the mathematicians especially. We were delighted to see the school leaders also take the lead on running a Talent Show event. Lots of entries led us down to one winner Keizo, who played *Walking in the Air* from *The Snowman* to the whole school at the Xmas assembly, a real highlight for me.

We have kept some of the popular events in the calendar, such as the pancake races in Feb, the Poppy mural for Remembrance Day and Pi day.

Other activities that always draw in huge crowds were successful again this year, with large numbers watching both the remote control car Grand Prix and also the PE Ninja Warrior, with Henry taking this year's title as champion!





Technology department ran the excellent annual Bake Off, and with the new addition of Lego Day on World Technology Day brought in new clientele to contribute to the overall scores. STEM week was great in Science and History had huge numbers in the hall recreating historical figures on boiled eggs! These were incredibly done.

It wouldn't be the house competition without PE, and the Netball, Rugby and Hockey are always fiercely competitive, with Inter-Form Football Competition at lunch always a highlight as well.

In the Summer Term, we have launched a fundraising campaign for each house to support a charity of their choice in any way they seem fit. Wet sponges thrown at staff, penalty shoot-outs and a non-uniform day with year group activities really boosted spirits in the last term.

Finally, Sports Day must get a mention. It is my favourite moment in the school year. Being a PE teacher and seeing the whole school compete as houses is amazing. The added display of the four flags really lifted the occasion on a very grey and dreary day weather-wise! Congratulations to Matilda who won by 2 points with Bigg leading almost all of the day!

This leaves the last announcement for the overall winners. Will Matilda retain the crown? Or will we have a new champion..... We will soon find out!

- Mr Lyons, Head of House System



### Top Point Scoring Students - Term 6

Year 7	Ewan Bissell	Blackstone	92
Year 8	Rose Chadney	Christie	89
Year 9	Imogen Wilkes	Matilda	82
Year 10	Arthur Liddy	Bigg	64
Year 12	Emilia Howard	Christie	14



What a term it has been for Bigg House. What started with the final of the Weakest Link & The House Bake Off competition has concluded with our excellent performance at Sports Day & superb contributions to our chosen charity for Inflammatory Breast Cancer.



I repeat what I said during our House Assembly just before sports day. I could not be prouder to have been the head of Bigg House. The sense of community & togetherness throughout this year, which has been led superbly by our Year 12 & Year 10 students has been apparent. This was evident in our approach to Sports Day – everyone got involved & played their part. To be 2 points away from victory overall, however heartbreaking, was a huge achievement for us as a House & what an improvement on last year's performance.

Elsewhere, the initiative behind various fundraising ideas has been excellent – in particular, the Year 10 penalty shootout competition will remain a real highlight.

I wish all in Bigg House a very well deserved and restful summer holiday & we will, as ever, come back stronger next year!

*Mr Harpin*  
*House Leader of Bigg*



Another great year for Blackstone! I'm super impressed with all the participation this year. Students have showed off their impressive knowledge with Mr Harpin's termly quiz shows, we've had drawing challenges, Lego building, pancake racing, inter-form football and so much more.



Sadly, we did not win Sports Day again this year, and we were even knocked off our top spot in the staff relay! However, Blackstone students showed all the qualities that I have been talking about in my assemblies this year. There was altruism with students cheering on students in other houses, there was tradition in the form of all the green face paint you could imagine, there was positivity galore and finally, so many students overcame fear by taking part in events they were unsure about. A big shout out to Alicia Preston who filled in so many gaps to gain us those vital points.

We still have managed to squeeze a few more events into the last couple of weeks, with a rocket competition, paper airplanes and a triathlon still to come. I'm not entirely sure how we manage to fit it all in, but it means that there really is something for everyone.

A massive thank you to my house captains, Tabby and Alyssa, who have helped me massively this year. From helping run events, to creating murals, they have truly encompassed what it is to be a house captain. I look forward to recruiting the next round of house captains in September!

Have a fantastic summer and see you all soon!

*Miss Sutton*  
*House Leader of Blackstone*

## Christie House – Another Incredible Year!

Wow, Christie House – what an amazing year it has been! Once again, you have all shone brightly, showcasing your individual talents and incredible teamwork. You have embraced opportunities, faced challenges, and excelled in competitions and events that came your way. This year, in particular, you have embodied the Christie spirit, radiating positivity and enthusiasm.



We've had a year brimming with achievements and celebrations. We saw the return of events such as the Grand Prix remote control car racing, The Weakest Link, Ninja Warrior, Bake Off, and many more. Your eagerness to participate, try new things, and step outside your comfort zones has been as inspiring as ever. Your artistic flair was on full display with some incredible Bake Off creations and vibrant Sports Day banners, and the depth of knowledge many of you demonstrated during quiz show competitions was very impressive.

Christie House has excelled, seizing every opportunity and achieving an impressive number of House points! Your hard work in lessons, extra-curricular activities, and House events, along with your contributions to the wider community, have been rewarded with many of you achieving your House Point badges. Well done to each and every one of you!

Sports Day was a highlight, and I am extremely proud of your efforts. The races were filled with great performances, showcasing your determination and team spirit. Many of you stepped in at the last minute to fill spaces, often stepping out of your comfort zones, and did so with courage. We certainly made our mark in true red style with fantastic banners and posters! The way you all support and cheer for one another is something I will always cherish about Christie House.

I am immensely proud of every member of Christie House and all you have achieved over the past year. To our Year 11 and Year 13 students, I wish you the best of luck with your upcoming results and every success in your future endeavours.



Have an amazing summer holiday! It has been an honour to be your Head of House. Keep shining bright, Christie!

*Miss Persse*  
*House Leader of Christie*



What a term Matilda! I want to take the time to share how amazed I have been at how well you have all embraced the competitions and events that have been sent your way this year! There have been plenty...



To sum up the term, SPORTS DAY, each of you worked fantastically as a House to fill the sign-up sheets and the day provided an excellent example of that team spirit we really embody as a house! It sure was worth it as well! You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves in a HUGE way! Another highlight of the term as part of the house team was last Friday seeing all year groups involving themselves in heaps of activities and teambuilding challenges!

You have continued to work hard in lessons and into your end of year assessments. To all the Year 11s that have completed your exams, we wish all the best for the future! Matilda



has had a strong turnout to all of the competitions, quizzes and events that have run this year! Something I hope you are excited to continue into next year with the fundraising we have been doing over the last terms.

I wish you all a fantastic break over the Summer holidays and look forward to working with you all next academic year, YOU ROCK MATILDA!

*Mr Hinchliffe  
House Leader of Matilda*

## Top Point Scoring Students 2023-2024

Year 7	Benjamin Capo Bianco	Blackstone	501
Year 8	Tilda Santer	Christie	395
Year 9	Joseph Rhodes	Bigg	725
Year 10	Charlotte Hebbes	Christie	253
Year 11	Bethan Hooper	Christie	152
Year 12	Thea McSweeney	Blackstone	87
Year 13	Isabelle Carty	Matilda	53

## This Year's House Champions are...MATILDA!

1st Place	Matilda	6630
2nd Place	Christie	6435
3rd Place	Bigg	6230
4th Place	Blackstone	6030

**Congratulations to all students and staff for taking part in House events this year!**

# House Tug of War

The annual House Tug of War is always a great end to the year - a chance for the staff teams to get competitive and show their strength! Matilda won! But most importantly the staff team pulled their way to victory against the students!!!



Staff House Tug of War



Winners Matilda!!!!!!



Have a wonderful summer holiday everyone - see you in September!



Wallingford School, St George's Road, Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 8HH  
Website: [www.wallingfordschool.com](http://www.wallingfordschool.com) | Social Media: @wallingford4140

Cover Artwork: Lily Clayton, Year 11