

Wallingford School - House Newsletter

Thursday 22nd July 2021

Assembly: Unprecedented

By Mr J Marston, Headteacher



Dictionary definition – unprecedented – never having happened or existed in the past

As we end another disrupted school year, I was almost tempted to describe it as “unprecedented” but flinched and resisted from using that term.

The word has surrounded us over the past nearly 18 months, rattled out by the media on an hourly basis. This is, of course, totally understandable. What has happened with the pandemic is absolutely unprecedented over the past 100 years and even previous pandemics would not have impacted on the scale or with the speed with which Covid-19 has spread around the world.

Within the pandemic context, unprecedented feels, and probably is, a negative term – and we all know why. However, language is there to be grabbed hold of and be appropriated and I wonder if that can happen with unprecedented.



As Headteacher of Wallingford School, and as a parent myself, I think a lot about the impact of the pandemic on our young people. It is varied and complex, sometimes straightforward, sometimes elusive.

The joy of simply being in school and part of a school community has resonated strongly; but as professionals working in education concerns about lost learning and mental health and wellbeing have been at the forefront of our concerns as well and we continue to work hard to address them.

What we do know is that there is so much which is remarkable about these young people – perhaps something which is unprecedented for many generations. They have been disrupted and denied at short notice, cooped up and directed in a way that has not happened for generations yet they have coped quite brilliantly in a way which we as adults can only stand back and admire.

I don't know that comparisons between wars and a pandemic sit quite right but it is undeniable that this is the first generation of young people to experience anything like this in this country since the end of the Second World War. The generation who experienced that war as young people and adults were labelled the Greatest Generation and were characterized by their bravery, stoicism and selflessness. It is of course different for this generation but selflessness is certainly a defining characteristic of them, as are adaptability, innovation and care for each other. It has not been easy for them but they have been remarkable and I want to reclaim the word unprecedented for them. They are unprecedented and they deserve every credit and plaudit for being so.



Sports Day 2021

By Mrs E Hedges, PE Teacher

After a vast amount of preparation from the PE department and the grounds team, Sports Day arrived. Newly cut grass, fresh white lines, crisp house bunting and the stage was set for what turned out to be the closest fought Sports Day in school history.

There was a real sense of anticipation and excitement in the air as students and staff, led by their newly appointed house leaders, flooded onto the field in a sea of blue, green, red and yellow. Participation was high and students were eager to compete, letting loose after the strains of the past year. The day ran smoothly, races and field events were completed one after the other with ease. Students competed with grace, sportsmanship and clear competitiveness for their house. There were many great displays of team work in the Tug of War events, however it was cycling that turned out to be a crucial event in the score totals.

Stand Out Performances Came From:

Libby Young Year 7 - new school record in the 300m

Emily Comber-Lye Year 8 - new school record in the 300m

Ollie Maier Year 8 - Exceptionally fast time in the 100m

Annabelle Collins Year 9 - new school record in the 300m

Max Whitaker Year 12 - Exceptionally fast time in the 100m

Year 10 Girls 100m race - Exciting from the beginning with exceptional running, falls and desire to win

Year 10 boys Relay - Exceptionally fast paced race, with excellent changeovers and utter determination to win

Miss Dudding - Making history as the first ever female chief starter marshal

As always Sports Day draws to an end with the staff relay. This race was all encompassing; staff warming up, team talks in the middle of the track, positional run through and Blackstone out to hold their title. As always a rapid Mr Vile can never be caught, an early injury sustained by the Christie team hampered their chances, Bigg ran steady but true and Matilda turned up. We would like to thank all those who took part as this is a truly entertaining part of the day. A huge congratulations to Blackstone who won by a Vile....Mile!

The leaderboard was close throughout the day with first place changing every few minutes as results came in. As results were counted for the final time only a few points made the difference. Congratulations to Blackstone and Miss Sutton for being 2021 Sports Day champions.

A huge thank you to all staff and students for their contribution on the day.

The PE Department.





Starting The New School Year With A New House System...

Mr R Lyons, Head of House System

In the last 16 months students have missed out hugely. We have heard in the press about lost time, catch-up, and missed education. Whilst all of this is extremely important, I believe that they have missed out on so much more than that. They have missed interactions with their friends, school fixtures, trips outside of school for educational purposes or even just for fun. They have missed pulling together to create an incredible production in December, being sat together for assemblies to build a year group identity and they have missed out on being part of their house, contributing and competing for the prestigious house trophy.

From September we would like to rejuvenate the House system back into Wallingford School. What a way to get this kick started than with an incredible Sports Day. This year was a different one. Both Year 7 and 8 have never been a part of a live sports day. It was an incredible day and epitomises what the house system is all about; every student and member of staff working together for the interest of their own small community within the school.

We are fortunate enough that from September we will have both Heads of Year and House Leaders in post. This means there will not only be more capacity to enable the amazing pastoral care to continue for each student within the school, but also time and energy for our House Leaders to offer a number of house events over the year on a regular basis.

Between myself and the newly appointed Miss Sutton (Blackstone) Miss Hearn (Matilda) Miss Persse (Christie) and Miss Ward (Bigg) we are really excited about what is in store from September. We really hope that the enrichment opportunities and fun can return to our school community after such a testing and restricted time.



I wish all students and staff a restful summer break.

Introducing Our House Leaders...

Ms J Ward, Bigg House Leader

Having been a member of Bigg House since joining Wallingford School, I am incredibly excited to be taking on the role of House Leader. Students in Bigg House have always impressed me with their spirit, enthusiasm, and willingness to get stuck in.

Sports day was a fantastic example of this; almost every student participated in at least one event, and every student tried their absolute best. The atmosphere in the Bigg House pen was electric. There was a sea of blue banners, face paint and hats, and a cacophony of cheering, chanting, and even drums (thank you Y12)! Seeing students take such pride in their house and cheering their peers on has been a highlight of my time at Wallingford so far.

Going forward, I would like Bigg House to offer every student the chance to be involved in something that interests them. Students will be able to shape the direction of the House by making decisions about our ethos and values and contributing ideas for house trips and competitions. Finally, I want to ensure that every member of our House strives to be the best version of themselves, by getting stuck in and supporting each other in each of their endeavours.



Miss C Sutton, Blackstone House Leader

I'm so excited to be taking on the role of House Leader of Blackstone. After a truly tough year and a half I am really looking forward to picking up the house system again and getting students involved in all sorts of extra-curricular activities.

And what a way to kick it off with sports day! The atmosphere on the day has been the highlight of my teaching career so far. I am so proud of all the students in all the houses for conducting themselves in such a positive way and participating in a fantastic event. And of course for me, Blackstone winning sports day was the icing on the cake for an already memorable day. A massive well done to all the Blackstone students and staff (I had a lot to live up to with the staff relay!).

We are already working on lots of exciting events for students to take part in next year. I look forward to Blackstone students continuing to show the same level of engagement and positivity as they did on sports day. There will be many opportunities for students to take part in house events, show resilience when things don't go to plan and support their classmates; all things that will make me proud to be leading Blackstone students.

I hope all students and staff have a well-deserved summer break and come back ready to represent their house all over again in September.



Miss J Persse, Christie House Leader

I am Miss Persse, a PE teacher and House Leader for Christie House. I joined Wallingford in September and, following the ups and downs of the last year, I am looking forward to getting to know you all better through our upcoming events and competitions.

While this last year has been difficult, all students have shown incredible determination and courage to make the best of the situation. I am determined to make the renewed house system an opportunity for students to continue to build on these qualities as we return to some form of normality.

Following our fantastic sports day, I am even more certain we can make this a success. Every single member of Christie house, both students and staff, showed fantastic team spirit, and brought a willingness to be involved and support for one another throughout the entire day. The Christie cheer was out in full force!

It was the closest sports day result ever, with every house being in first place at one point throughout the day. Christie had someone involved in every track and field event, which was a credit to every member of the house – both staff and students – who worked so well together to make this happen. This encouragement, enthusiasm, teamwork and determination is the vision I have for Christie going forward, and hopefully for years to come.

As we finish for the summer, I want to say thank you to everyone who has already got involved. Mr Lyons, myself and the other House Leaders will be setting up plenty of opportunities for even more students and staff to take part for the next year. After such an amazing start, I am excited to see what Christie can achieve.

Until then, I wish you all a relaxing summer break.



Miss E Hearn, Matilda House Leader

Hello Matilda House,

Sports day is a fantastic example as to why I love the house system so much. The buzz from the day was amazing and something that has been massively missed over the last year and a bit. I thoroughly enjoyed being able to get the whole house (and school) back together in person for the biggest house event of the year. The passion, spirit and enthusiasm that was displayed during sports day was amazing. Seeing students take such pride in their house and cheering their peers, regardless of their house is a true testament to how brilliant our students are. I am so proud of you all!

I am super excited to be your House Leader and I am really looking forward to see what next year brings for you all. I want to give you all the opportunity to become the best version of yourself, develop friendships and life skills and just feel a part of something as well as getting involved in extra curricular activities to win points for Matilda House. But for now, have a very well earned break and see you all in September, especially looking forward to welcoming the new Year 7s to the Matilda family.



Stars Programme

What is the Stars Programme?

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.

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.

Celebrating Our Stars (September 2019 - July 2021)

As you are very aware, we haven't been able to celebrate our Stars in the same manner over the past 2 years, but we hope they all enjoyed their book rewards this year!

We were really pleased to be able to create our annual celebratory trip to Paultons Park earlier this month, and what a great day it was - it was so lovely to see all Stars from the past 2 years get their moment in the spotlight and have a day full of fun! We enjoyed ourselves too!



A Musical Journey...

By Ms Y Hammond, Curriculum Coordinator for Music

Life after studying Music at Wallingford School takes many forms.

We have had students who have gone on to solo performing careers, study at the Royal academy of Music in London, compose for films, and Music production.

But we've also had Music students go on to study a huge variety of other subjects at competitive universities, from law to languages, chemistry to journalism. Studying Music helped them develop the skills needed to succeed. Some medical schools even prefer subjects like Music as the third A level option because of the added challenge!

As a department we love hearing from ex-students and it always reminds us of the many paths you can travel with Music. As Dr Strother says 'Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative.'

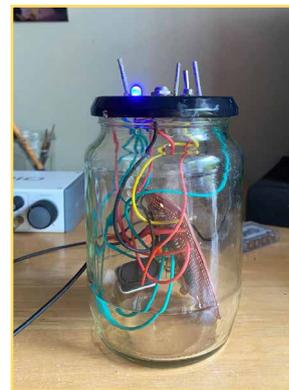


Megan Giles is studying Music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and was part of our music department until 2019. She was always a strong performer on the horn, and we are delighted to hear her news that she has signed with the world class Cory Band, the No 1 brass band in the World! She will be touring South Korea with them next year, good luck Megan!

Fergus McGregor, ex Wallingford Music student has been invited to be the musical Director for the Bristol Operatic Society for their production of Die Fledermaus. This is a fabulous appointment, which means Fergus will be juggling his Chemistry degree at Bristol University with music rehearsals; just goes to show how music is for life! Fergus studied A level Music and achieved an A* and he is an accomplished pianist. Good luck Fergus!



Ex Music student, **James Richardson** has just graduated from Surrey University with a first class honours degree in Creative Music Technology . James has very exciting plans for next year, he is recording and producing music with his band and building up his professional portfolio. He is interested in starting his own production/studio house where he will continue working on his sonic art and experimental music. And Ms Hammond is particularly pleased to hear that he is still composing and building his own synthesizers and music instruments!



Kam Liddar achieved 93/100 in his grade 8 clarinet exam (distinction!). Kam was part of our Clarinet group at school and wrote one of his GCSE Music compositions based on Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue', one of his grade 8 pieces. What a fabulous way to end your Music education at Wallingford School Kam!!

The Music Department - We're Back!

One of the best things about being back at school has been hearing live music coming from the practice rooms. We are very fortunate at Wallingford School to have such a variety of instruments taught to students, from baritone saxophone, violin, bassoon, guitar, to vocal and piano lessons.

Next year the music department would like to promote learning an instrument, and we have a few department instruments we can lend to students if they would like to learn (parents would need to pay for lessons, music and reeds). We have four alto saxophones and Ms Atkins has agreed to teach four students together in a lesson (this keeps the price down). If you are interested then please contact Ms Hammond. We also have a school tenor and baritone saxophone we can lend out, as well as a school trombone.

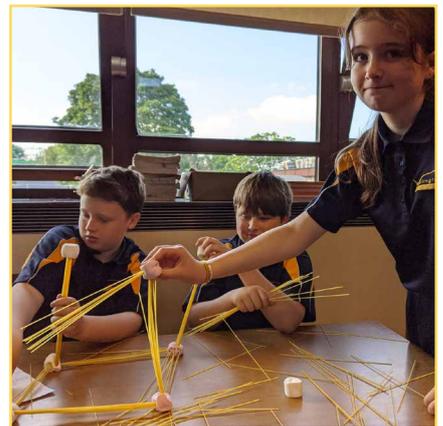


Ms Hammond has been thrilled to have had Bigg Band rehearsing since Easter and is really looking forward to next year when we can return to concerts and playing new music. If you are interested in giving Bigg Band a try please contact Ms Hammond in the first instance or have a chat to your music teacher.

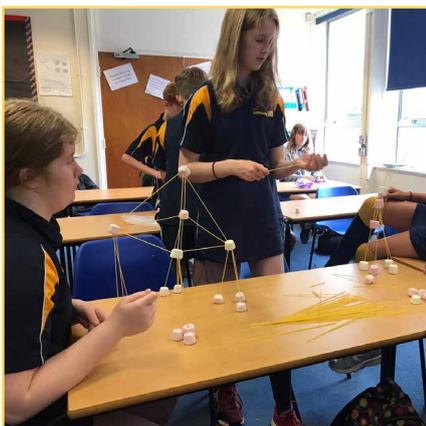
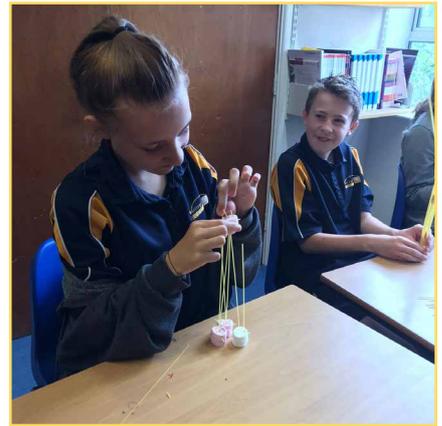
Next term we are welcoming the return of KS3 vocal group and Decibels (KS4/5). Also we hope to revamp clarinet group and flute group with new players.

Contact Ms Hammond (hammondy@wallingfordschool.com) or Miss Norman (normane@wallingfordschool.com) for more details.

Year 7 Enrichment Day



Year 8 Enrichment Day



Year 9 Enrichment Day



Year 11 Work Shadowing

By Ms K Vowles, Deputy Headteacher

There's an exciting opportunity coming up for current Year 10 pupils on 20th October 2021: Work Shadowing Day.

Unfortunately Covid meant work experience couldn't go ahead for Y10 this year. It's a shame because we believe some form of experience of the world of work is hugely beneficial for pupils. We still can't be certain of what restrictions there will or won't be in the coming months and this makes planning for a week of work experience very tricky indeed. Something we can be more certain of going ahead though is work shadowing.

The idea is simple: pupils are invited to accompany a parent/guardian, nominated relation or family friend to work for the day. It doesn't matter whether or not the shadowing is in a role or career of particular interest. It's about using the day to gain insight into aspects of employment as simple as the distance people must travel to work, how people interact in a professional environment and the variety of skills that a given job requires. Once we have the necessary form completed, and checks made, the work shadowing can go ahead.

So Y10, get speaking to family and family friends about shadowing someone you know and return your completed forms to us. We would welcome all forms as soon as possible and certainly by 13th September 2021. If you need the form resending then do let us know.

If you are a local employer and think you might be able to welcome a pupil for a day on 20th October, please do get in touch.

Any questions, please email workexperience@wallingfordschool.com



Sponsored Walk 2021

By Ms R Miller, Deputy Headteacher

We talk to students regularly about leaving Wallingford School 'able and qualified'. When I first stood in front of students this year and told them we would be walking 8 miles as a school community to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, I once again referred to our school motto. I explained to students that the 'qualified' part of the motto is dealt with through their learning in making sure they have the right set of qualifications and skills to open doors for their future pathways. The 'able' part, I told students, was about being a decent person and doing the right thing.



I spoke to students about the importance of being part of a community and the responsibilities that brings. We talked about how the walk would not only allow them to enjoy our beautiful countryside but enable them to be respectful of the environment including tidying up after ourselves. I asked them to enjoy one another's company without the distractions of phones and music. And I asked them to think beyond themselves for the walk and seek sponsorship to raise money for a worthy cause.

It is fair to say that every student excelled themselves in meeting these challenges!

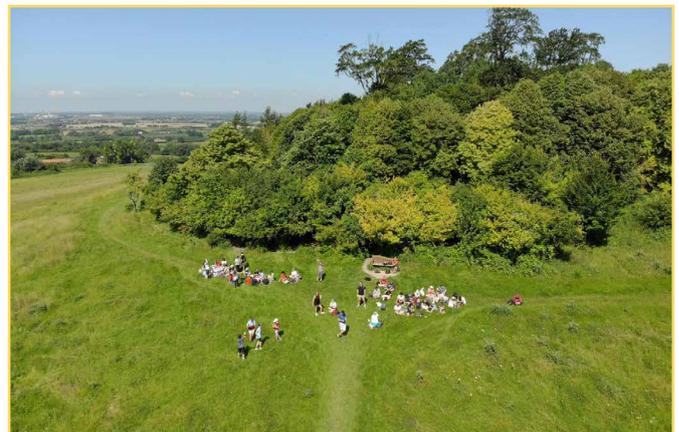




The day itself started off hot and there was a real buzz around school as students arrived that morning. Tutor groups were busy completing art work to contribute to the whole school art project that Mr Bowen and his team have been running alongside the sponsored walk (if you're in town on July 24th be sure to pop along to the market square to see it!). Some groups also squeezed in a visit to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance display vehicle parked on the school field to find out more about the amazing work the charity undertakes.



The first groups set off just after 9 and we paused dismissing our students to allow the Brightwell Primary school students, some of whom are only 5 and 6 years old, to leave. Finally the whole school had left and there was just the quiet hum of activity in the art department as a small number of students continued to work with Mr Bowen. The photos trickled in and groups paused for their lunch at the top of the clumps. Then, just after midday, the first students started to reappear and cross the finishing line collecting a well deserved ice lolly. There were tales of falling in cow pats, discovering tuck shops at just the right moment and lots of sore feet. Most of all there were faces beaming with smiles and pride at having completed such a challenging walk.





Brightwell's year 5/6 class returned amongst the main group of walkers just after 2pm. And the littlest of legs took their time, reapplied their suntan lotion frequently, drank lots of water and turned the corner to school just as the buses were leaving at 3.15pm. A real achievement from the youngest within our academy trust- well done!

It was at this point I admitted that the route was actually closer to 9.5 miles than 8 given the diversions we'd had to put in place!

As I write we are just waiting for the final count of sponsorship money- all will be revealed very soon.



The walk was a perfect end to an exciting enrichment week and showcased the very best of all our students. It wouldn't have happened without the tremendous hard work of our brilliant associate and teaching staff, the enthusiasm of our students and the support of all our families and our community- thank you- it was definitely worth it!



Great Summer Reads

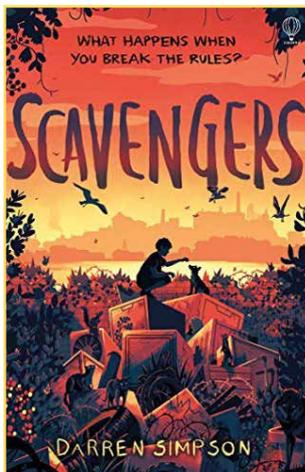
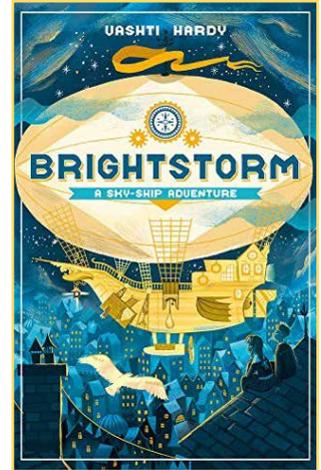
By Mrs C Saunders, School Librarian

Twins Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm receive word in Lontown that their famous explorer father has died in a failed attempt to reach the southernmost point in the world. Not only that, but he has been accused of stealing fuel before he died!

The twins don't believe the news, and they answer an ad to join a new attempt to reach South Polaris. It's their only hope of learning the truth ... and salvaging their family's reputation.

As the winged ship Aurora sets sail, the twins must keep their wits about them and prove themselves worthy of the rest of the crew.

But will Arthur and Maudie find the answers they seek?



Landfill has lived his whole life as a scavenger, running with wooflers, swimming with turtles and feasting on fresh gull.

Old Babagoo has always looked after him, on one condition - follow his rules. NEVER COME LOOKING OUTSIDE. NEVER RISE ABOVE THE WALL.

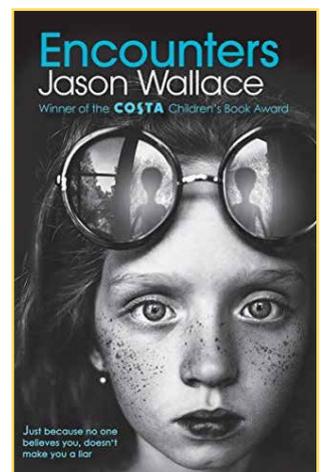
But despite the dangers, Landfill longs to see Outside. And some rules are made to be broken.

Zimbabwe, 1994. A group of children spot peculiar lights in the sky over the grounds of their school.

From this moment on, six young people's lives are changed forever.

Gary hides the anguish he feels now his mum's left, acting out in fury and hatred. Chloe has no words for the thing she fears most every day. Karl is the headmaster's son, now fallen from grace. Tendai knows he can never live up to his grieving father's ideals. And Sixpence watches all, knowing he'll never be like these other children. All of them have seen something they can't explain.

In amongst these tangled, tortured lives, comes a group of psychologists to verify the spookily similar claims of every witness. Their daughter, Holly, can tell there's more to it than aliens or mass hysteria – can she reveal the dark truths that haunt them?

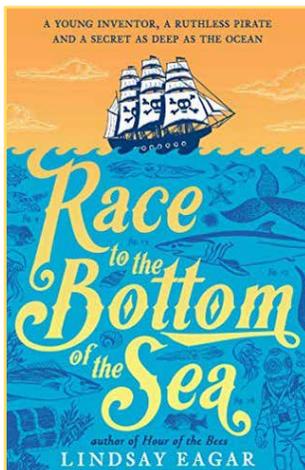
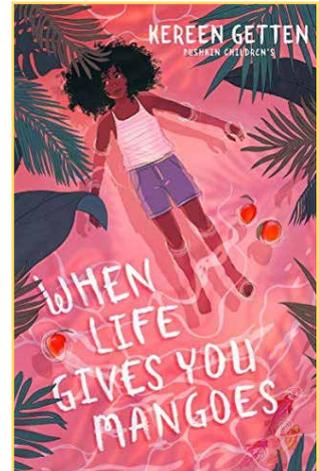




A summer she can't remember
A friendship she won't forget

Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives - at least, that's how it seems. She loves eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem: she can't remember anything about the previous summer.

When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend, while Rudy and Clara roam across the island and uncover an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.



When her marine scientist parents are killed in a tragic accident, eleven-year-old Fidelia Quail is racked by grief – and guilt. It was a submarine of Fidelia's invention that her parents were in when they died, and it was she who pressed them to stay out longer when the raging Undertow was looming. But Fidelia is forced out of her mourning when she's kidnapped by Merrick the Monstrous, a pirate whose list of treasons stretches longer than a ribbon eel. Her task? Use her marine know-how to retrieve his treasure, lost on the ocean floor. But as Fidelia and the pirates close in on the prize with the navy hot on their heels, she realizes that Merrick doesn't expect to live long enough to enjoy his loot. Could something other than black-hearted greed be driving him? Will Fidelia be able to master the perils of the ocean without her parents – and piece together the mystery of Merrick the Monstrous before it's too late?

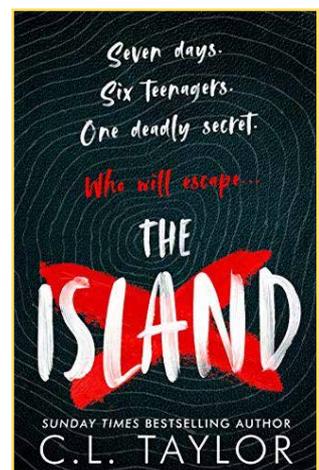
Welcome to The Island.
Where your worst fears are about to come true...

It was supposed to be the perfect holiday: a week-long trip for six teenage friends on a remote tropical island.

But when their guide dies of a stroke leaving them stranded, the trip of a lifetime turns into a nightmare.

Because someone on the island knows each of the group's worst fears. And one by one, they're becoming a reality.

Seven days in paradise. A deadly secret.
Who will make it off the island alive?



And the moment has arrived...our final House Point round-up!

Here's a list of students who have crossed a new threshold since the last newsletter; we are delighted to share our first ever **Diamond Award** recipient with a whopping 427 points - an excellent achievement!

The thresholds are as follows:

Bronze: 25
Silver: 50
Gold: 100
Platinum: 150
Diamond: 300

A big congratulations to all students crossing a new threshold and achieving bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards - will you beat your current record in the next academic year?!

BRONZE AWARD

Lauren Bayquen	Blackstone
Taylor Betteridge	Matilda
Millie Carty	Blackstone
Elixia Fisher	Matilda
Issabella Grayston	Blackstone
Freddie Greetham	Matilda
Jessica Hill	Bigg
Kaiden Huffey	Matilda
Noah Jones	Matilda
Nazifa Khanom	Christie
Samuel Lavender	Blackstone
Jessica Mann	Blackstone
Kaine Marsden	Matilda
Joel Masters	Blackstone
Tristan Miroslawski	Matilda
Sid Preston	Bigg
Ross Prothero	Christie
Tom Robinson	Matilda
Aidan Sherwood	Christie
Macy Tame	Matilda
James Warr	Blackstone
Poppy Williams	Blackstone

SILVER AWARD

Thomas Allington	Blackstone
Tina Antoniou	Blackstone
Harry Bowden	Blackstone
Nathan Brewer	Matilda
Molly Bridges	Blackstone
Max Busby	Christie
Leemarri Cameron	Christie
Aston Castle	Blackstone
Dylan Collins	Bigg
Alfie Cooper	Blackstone
Ben Coupar	Matilda
Brandon Daly	Matilda
Emmy Dawson Evers	Bigg
Tom Dunne	Blackstone
Reuben Elford-Lewis	Christie
Peter Fegyveres Nagy	Blackstone
Alicia Fitzgerald	Matilda
Zoe Gerrard	Blackstone
Thomas Gordon	Matilda
Ben Gray	Christie
Thomas Henderson	Christie
Samuel Jarvis	Blackstone
Holly McAlister	Matilda
Katie Mellers	Christie
Aryan Mohammed	Blackstone
Imogen Orton	Christie
Hannah Page	Bigg

GOLD AWARD

Evie Andrews	Matilda
Amanta Anish	Bigg
Rosemary Archer	Christie
George Arnold	Matilda
Courtney Ashley	Blackstone
Sophie Bailey	Christie
Madeline Brewer	Matilda
Jonathan Cooper	Matilda
Sophie Cooper	Bigg
Orlaith Daniel	Blackstone
Sebastian Draganel	Christie
Zachary Field	Christie
Mia-Lynn Forrester-Ley	Christie
Elliot Frost	Christie
Adela Giurma-Handley	Christie
Andrew Goodwin	Blackstone
Beth Green	Christie
Eve Hannigan	Matilda
Ben Heriot	Matilda
Finlay Hillier	Christie
Charlotte Hull	Christie
Thea Keith	Christie
Suzanna Lawson	Bigg
Adrian Lorenzo Garcia	Blackstone
Ruby Lucas	Christie
Jamila Makoka	Bigg
Benito Manfredi	Blackstone
Henry May	Matilda
Isla McAlpine	Matilda
Orla McNulty	Matilda
Laura Miles	Bigg
Charles Mortimer	Blackstone
Elizabeth Pannett	Blackstone
William Passey	Christie
Zara Richardson	Blackstone
Jordan Sheppard	Matilda
Tara Smith-Dawson	Blackstone
Sean Stuart	Christie
Joseph Swaine	Matilda
Beth Tanner	Blackstone
Emilia Watkin	Christie
Martha Wood	Christie
Cian Wyse	Matilda
Erin Youhill-Partridge	Matilda
Libby Young	Christie

PLATINUM AWARD

Annabella Baroni	Christie
Douglas Blake	Blackstone
Daniel Churchill Coleman	Blackstone
Madeleine Cornut	Bigg
Amy Crook	Christie
Georgia Cuddon	Bigg
Thomas Debney	Christie
Liam Frost	Bigg
Lydia Gibson	Blackstone
Samuel Harpham	Bigg
Luke Hudson	Christie
Eve Jarman	Christie
Gethin Jenkins	Matilda
Jasmine Martin	Bigg
Dylan McGuffin	Matilda
Taylor May Morris	Bigg
Edward Mould	Bigg
Daisy Parker	Matilda
Daniel Pooley	Bigg
Fraser Ramsay	Blackstone
Oliver Sampson	Blackstone
Isobel Smith	Blackstone
Fletcher Stickley	Matilda
Cassia Turl	Matilda
Phoebe Watkins	Christie

DIAMOND AWARD

Jessica Clayton Blackstone

**Congratulations on being our first
ever 'Diamond Award' recipient
- well done!**

Messages from the Heads of Year...

Ms Pike, Head of Year 10

I have been thoroughly impressed this term. What amazing term you have had and you are incredibly special young people. I am so proud to be your Head of Year!

The Year 10 exam period was a process you all went through or were just dragged through, but you made it, and did that smiling. It was not easy and many of you found it challenging. From the recent results, take stock of where you are at, remember you still have not completed your courses and spend some time consolidating the parts you need to in order for you to be on the front foot in September. The summer is a good six weeks and dedicating some time to revising would be a good use of your time. Your teachers are keen to support you, but ultimately you will only get out what you put in. So why not work on being the best you can be, then next year you can look back knowing you gave it your all. **Start turning your dreams into reality!**

"If you can dream it, you can do it." – Walt Disney



Our annual Ridgeway Walk took place with a cohort of Year 10. It was incredibly hot, long and physically very enduring, where we walked 24ish miles over two days. The resilience, good humor, encouragement and energy amongst the participants was tremendous. I learnt a lot about bottled vs non bottled water, cows being very threatening, Pokémon Go and the fine art of den building, and generally how much energy some of you have! I hope this experience fills them with the resilience to take on further challenges that may lie ahead.

The biggest highlight for me was taking you all to Thorpe Park to celebrate your efforts this year. The smiles were endless, the sun was shining and the laughs were plenty. Your manners, punctuality and general good humor was second to none, and I am already thinking of what other exciting things we may be able to do next year as you are a pleasure to take out!

I am really excited about next year and greeting you on return in September as our new Year 11s. Some of you will be prefects, you will be wearing black jumpers and most importantly the leaders of the school.

Some of the exciting things to look forward to next year:

- Work Experience days
- Mocks
- GCSEs
- Founders Day
- Prom

Lastly, I want to thank the excellent team of form tutors we have in Year 10. They really know and care about you, and I know they're already looking forward Year 11!

Have a lovely summer, be safe, and make the most of your time.

Mrs Burns, Head of Year 9

Where do I start? what a year it has been!!!

I remember speaking to you on my very first day at Wallingford School and your first day as Year 9s, when I said to you that I honestly felt that Year 9 was the hardest year as you have so much thrown at you and also have to make choices about your future. In addition to this you also came back from the first lockdown and so much had changed in school! I said that we could do it and we would get through it, but that it would be down to how you approached this year.

I honestly never thought that you would smash it as much as you have! You have all been so amazing and have always risen to a challenge. Everything that has been thrown at you has been tackled with such grace and dignity and you have not only smashed each challenge but you have set the bar for the other year groups also.



It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you all this year and it has been a bigger pleasure watching you all grow in confidence and get involved in everything. It has been simply fantastic to watch you during enrichment week, sports day and also our sponsored walk where you put yourself out of your comfort zone and tried something new. It was amazing to see the support you also gave each other during these events and see you all with a can-do attitude. I look forward to seeing you all return in September starting your GCSE courses – you are so ready for them and are going to be fantastic!



Have the BEST summer, take care of yourself and remember to keep smashing it!!!

Ms C Dudding, Head of Year 8

One of the last opportunities to address you as Y8! We've made it to the end of another incredibly hard year. You should be so proud of yourselves, I know I am!

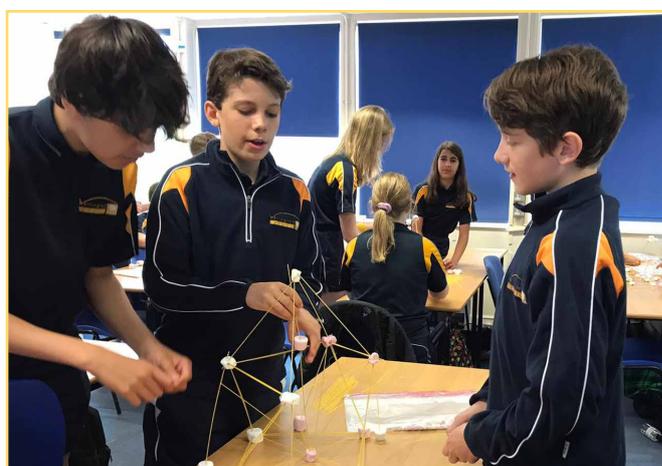
Before we say goodbye for the summer, I just want to recap the last couple of weeks. The weather turned lovely again, ice lollies are being served from the canteen, you've all engaged positively to the score card competition and congratulations to 8SKC for winning overall. Our Stars from the year spent the day at Paulton's Park. We had Enrichment Week, which saw a fantastic day off timetable building marshmallow towers and firing rockets. We had a momentous Sports Day and huge congratulations to everyone that competed for their House. Congratulations to Blackstone on winning overall. And we finished the week with such a great cause, walking across the Clumps for The Thames Valley Air Ambulance in the sponsored walk, which everyone did a superb job of doing and raising lots of money.



What an incredible end to the year! You've deserved it.

Finally, as a Year Group we need to say farewell to Mr. Choi who is taking on a new role as Head of Y7 from September. Mr. Choi has been an amazing Head of Year to you all, helping and looking after you all through lockdown, we will miss you. All the best for Head of Y7, they are lucky to have you.

With Mr. Choi leaving the Year Team, we welcome Miss Shine who will be helping me out as Head of Year from September. I know that you will all welcome Miss Shine and show her what a fantastic cohort of students you are to work with.



Enjoy your summer holidays, stay safe and see you all in September.

Ms D Walker, Head of Year 7

There have been 3 significant highlights for Year 7 recently....

Firstly, Sports Day. You were absolutely fabulous. The level of participation was tremendous and there were lots of wonderful individual performances both on the track and field. We were particularly impressed with your conduct during the afternoon while you sat in your House enclosures - the way that you cheered everyone on was superb.

Secondly, Enrichment Day. We are incredibly proud of how well you responded to Enrichment Day. All activities were fully embraced. It was particularly lovely to see you taking part and having fun in activities that were not part of your 'normal' school day. You had the opportunity to experience Wallingford School as we hope you will experience it many more times over the next 4 years. Lots of super memories were made. It is days like these that you will fondly recall for the rest of your life.



Thirdly, the Sponsored Walk. We had incredible weather and a fantastic atmosphere - the feeling of all coming together as a year group and a community as a whole. There was a tremendous level of camaraderie as you walked together, supporting each other to complete the 8 miles. It was yet another opportunity to experience life at Wallingford School beyond the confines of the classroom.

What a tremendous week we had and what a fabulous way to round off Year 7.

You have all coped tremendously well with a challenging year - we could not be more proud of you as a year group.

We hope you all have a wonderful, and well deserved, summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September for what we hope will be a more normal Year 8.

Well done and congratulations Year 7, you should feel extremely proud.

House Champions 2020-2021

We've added-up the final House Points from all the students and here are the final House Point totals:

Although they were Sports Day Champions, Blackstone bring up the rear with 15,064 points.

Not-so Big came in 3rd, with 15,322 points.

Unable to solve the crime, Christie came in 2nd with 16,258 points.

But, stealing the throne, in 1st place, it's MATILDA with 16,783 points!!



Have a wonderful summer holiday!