

BLESSED EDWARD OLDCORNE

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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Science Technicians for all their
hard work to keep practical lessons
on the timetable.

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Blessed Edward
Oldcorne Catholic
College



Newsletter

October 2020



We have so much to show you.

Dear Parents and friends of Blessed Edward's, it has been another eventful and action packed half term at our college. I would like to thank you for your support and positivity this half term in returning your children to full time learning. Please be assured that your trust in us is never taken for granted. Our students and staff have adapted to new routines and ways of working and many of the changes we have implemented are now simply an ordinary part of a typical school day. We of course will continue to remind students of the importance of adhering to all the safety measures which the college has put in place. It is important that we take nothing for granted. Thank you for supporting the college's hygiene measures by ensuring your child does not come into the college if they have Covid related symptoms. This is the foundation of our approach to reducing the risk of transmission within the college.

Despite the changes there continues to be so much to celebrate and I trust that this newsletter and also our social media feeds give you a sense of what takes place on a daily basis. Our website was recently refreshed and you will find lots of relevant information about the college there including our new video tour of the college, materials related to our virtual Open Evening and curriculum details from each department in the college. The college continues to embrace the use of new technologies and we recently took delivery of 70 laptops which parents are leasing for their children to use at home and in college. We will be sending out information about Parents' Evenings after half term and sharing details on how we will keep you updated on your child's progress.

I expect that after half term we will get the usual mix of speculation and rumour around issues such as GCSE examinations. My advice to students has been to keep their heads down, work hard and make sure they make the most of every lesson. There are some things that are beyond our control but our aim as always is to make sure that your child feels safe and secure in our school. I hope you manage to get some time with your family during half term week.

Best wishes to you all,
 Greg McClarey - Headteacher

Safeguarding Safeguard team

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is broader than 'child protection' as it also includes prevention and ensuring the best interests of our students come first.

The School recognises that it has a duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students by creating a positive atmosphere through teaching and learning, pastoral support for students and staff, training for staff and with working with parents and Local Authorities.

Meet the team...



Designated Safeguard and LAC Lead
Miss Mason









Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads
Mr McClarey Mrs Thomas Mrs Ennis













Safeguard Team
Ms Pratty Mr Taylor Mrs Pritchard Mrs Moseley Mr Dobson











Safeguarding Governor
Mrs Girling







LAC Governor
Mr Barclay



Chair of Governors
Mr Carney





Prevent Single Point of Contact
Mr McClarey, Miss Mason

It's the end of my third year as chair of governors at Blessed Edward Catholic College, in this time the world has changed and the way we support each other has changed as well. We are all in difficult times from something as simple as 'It's just changed' to dramatic changes in the whole working life of all of us; parents' careers and children alike. We know at the school this has affected our children and we need to recognise this and adapt.

The school has started to adapt and become more agile in the way it operates. From little things like having a mask in school bags with hand sanitisers to total reworking of school teaching plans; allowing for home learning and this is, for the majority, a pleasant experience. But at Blessed Edward's we think about those children for whom this is a difficult adaption and we work hard to support them and make this an easier experience for them. Reading the report our Headteacher gave the Full Governing Body today I saw how we are seen outside the school by outside agencies.

A letter given to the school reads '*... I realise that you consistently go above and beyond for your young people... You have shown such resilience, professionalism and dedication in supporting your CLA, particularly those who have complex needs. You have invested a lot of energy in giving all of your young people every possible chance to succeed. ...The level of your pastoral care is incredible. Your CLA are very fortunate, as we are, to have you as their Designated Teacher.*'

I believe this is how our school is. What is happening in the world is hard but we are committed to working together with parents in a way that is true to the values and ethos of our school. We may not always get it right but our intention will always be to act in the best interests of our students.

When reading this newsletter please remember it has all been achieved in a difficult situation and despite this we still achieve, and we still perform. I hope and pray we will get through these difficult times, and we will get through them if we continue to work together.

Please continue to make suggestions, get involved and talk to us. We are always here and willing to listen so that we can continue to make a difference to the lives of all our students.

Philip Carney - Chair of Governors

Key Dates

2nd November - Students Return

8th November - Remembrance Sunday

9th November - Year 11 Mocks Begin

14th November - Diwali

18th November - Students Finish at 1:35pm for Teachers Curriculum Planning Afternoon

27th November - College Closed to students - Teacher Education Day

29th November - First Sunday of Advent

30th November - Advent Liturgies Begin

1st December - Year 9 Pastoral Development Day

11th December - Virtual Advent Reconciliation Services

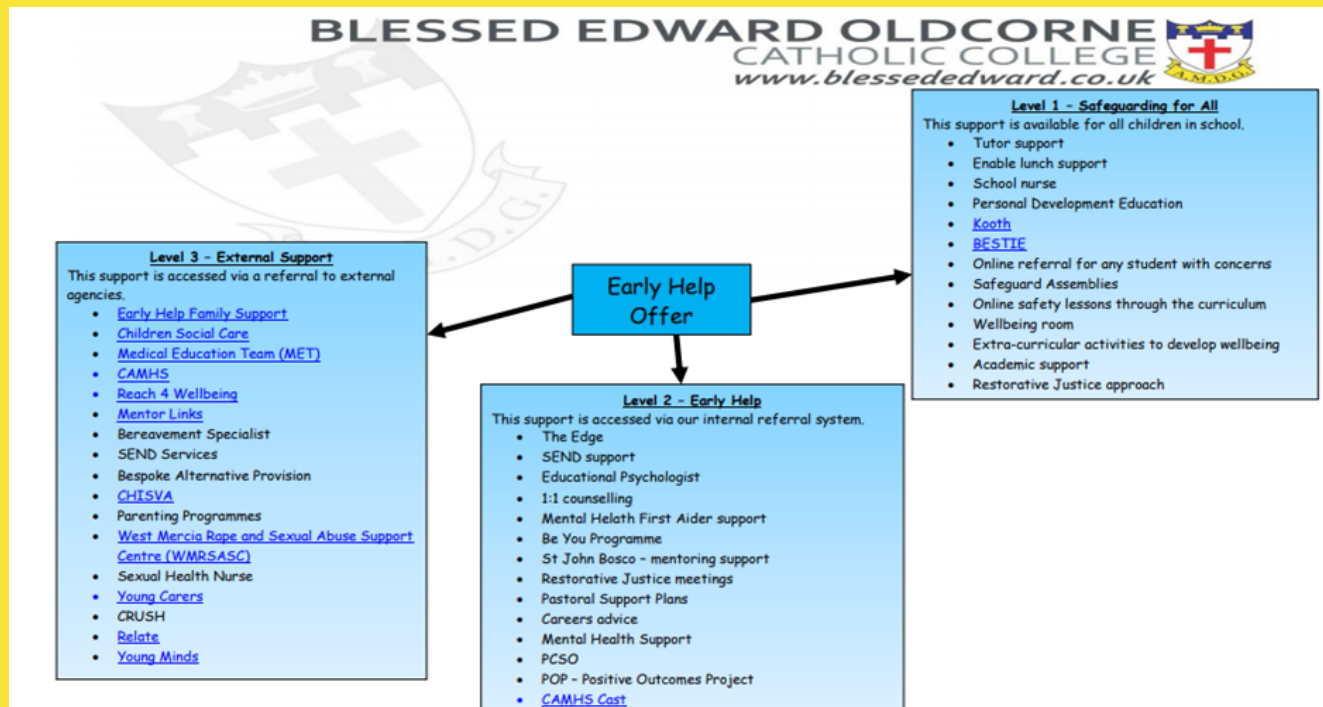
17th December - Virtual Carol Service

18th December - Staff and Students finish for Christmas Holidays at 12:35pm

Safeguarding continues over the page...

Early Help Offer

At Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children. There may be times when you need extra help and support. If this is the case, please come and talk to us. There are many ways in which we can help as outlined in this offer of



early help. We can also help to plan specific support for families where we can work together to set and achieve outcomes. Providing early help to our students and families at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to teenage years.

POP

The Positive Outcomes Project (POP) is a new innovative project developed by Worcestershire Children First.

The POP project came about as we recognise that for children and young people aged between 10 to 18 these really are challenging years for them as they make the transition from a child to that of a young adult.

They experience multiple changes during this period such as developmental changes, friendships and peer groups, changes in educational environments and expectations of growing up and becoming young adults and making choices about their future. There may also be changes, difficulties and challenges at home for some children and young people. All of these can impact on their emotional well-being, identity, self-confidence and self-esteem as well as family life.

We also know that there can be risks within their communities and online which we need to address and part of achieving this is to raise awareness of potential harm and educate and support young people with identifying when something is not right and what they can do when they are worried or concerned.

The project is delivered by Worcestershire Children First and is overseen and line managed by the company. The project is permanently staffed by Social Work qualified employees who also hold the relevant Practice Education qualification and have the experience to teach and train social workers in training.

The work of the project will be delivered by student social workers on placement and therefore all their work will be overseen and supervised by our practice educators and social work academy to ensure both quality and standard of practice. <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pop>

Student Safety and Dark Nights

At 2am on Sunday 25th October, we will all be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015) show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3 and 7pm. From Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind students about road safety and safe cycling.

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Be_Bright_Be_Seen-A5-Flyer.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/442236/child-casualties-2013-data.pdf

Support for children and young people affected by the coronavirus crisis (Barnardos/DfE)

Barnardos has launched a new scheme to help young people affected by the coronavirus crisis. The See, Hear, Respond Partnership will quickly identify and support children, young people and families who are struggling to cope with the impacts of coronavirus. It's aim is to provide early intervention before these children reach the threshold for statutory intervention.

See, Hear, Respond does not replace your usual referral process for children who meet a statutory threshold for significant harm: such referrals must be made to your local authority safeguarding team using your usual safeguarding procedures.

Barnardos say they 'especially want to invite referrals for families who are most isolated from support due to Covid-19, including:

- Under fives with a specific focus on under twos
- Those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and where there are concerns about their welfare e.g. online safety
- Children and young people experiencing anxiety, stress and other mental health difficulties
- Children who may be at increased risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation inside or outside of the home
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee children who experience barriers to accessing services
- Young carers

You can find more information and a referral form here: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/see-hear-respond>

Useful links

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

<http://www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk/>

<https://paceuk.info/about-cse/spotting-the-signs-cse/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Miss Mason - DSL and
LAC Lead

Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are **FREE**

All sessions are 40 minutes long.

Autumn 2020



Please book onto each course by searching for the course title:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses or call 01905 843519

**40 minute sessions on Tue 8pm or Wed
1.30pm starting 3rd Nov 6 weeks**



Time for You Course is free for parents and carers who are interested in having some time for them, following the lock-down and isolation period, this year.

Art in Your Heart Course uses art to help you work through stresses you might be facing and empower you to feel positive mental wellbeing.

Art in your Heart

A short course for Parents and Carers to express yourself through art activities helping you cope through stress.



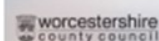
Wednesday evenings 8pm -
8.40pm starting on 4th
November for 6 weeks Online



'Thinking about Employment for Parents' Online Course

Are you a Parent or Carer?
Thinking about returning to work?
Not sure where to start?

Starting Monday 2nd Nov 8pm for 6 weeks



Thinking about Employment for Parents Free Course - Not sure where to start or how to feel ready for this big step of change?

Marvellous Me - After Lock down

Returning to the "norm" after lock down may feel different for some. This course offers mindfulness & positive well-being activities to parents and carers giving them some 'me time' with our friendly Family Learning Tutor in a group online.



Online Course Starting October 14th for 8 weeks
Every Wednesday 8pm - 8.40pm or Thursdays 1pm-1.40pm

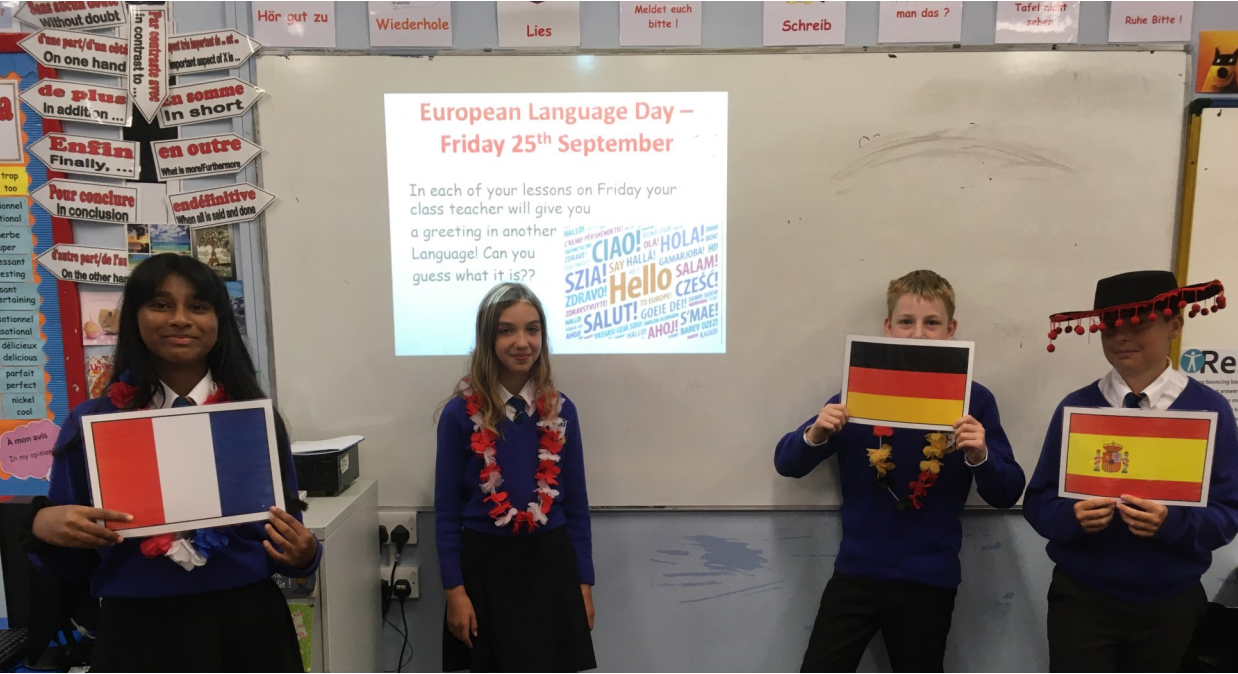
Harvington School Parents: "It's (Marvellous Me) been really brilliant, successful and rewarding. This is our third course which we have been lucky enough to attend and they have all been fantastic.



Online Learning

Our friendly Family Learning courses are currently online using 'Zoom' on your mobile phone, ipad, tablet or laptop. Your tutor will ring you before your course starts to **help you get online** for your course and can support you to access Zoom, help you check that you can use it ok and offer you any help you need.





European Language Day
26th September
 To celebrate European Language Day several teachers throughout the school greeted KS3 students in another language during the day. In class, we did a really fun quiz which included facts about languages, Rebus questions and guessing the language in a song. Also, some Year 8 students had a short taster in another language including Chinese and Italian.
 Mrs Low - MFL Teacher

Cyber Security is ever increasingly important in today's digital world with computers being ubiquitous. This is a government backed initiative for students aged 13+ so some of our Year 8's and older students could register for this extracurricular training game that can be completed at home. You will have a go at real-world cyber attacks, learning how cyber security experts play a vital role in protecting our hospitals, banks, army, and police services! The deadline for registration is 31st October (it's free), so don't delay, sign up today.
 Mr Nicholls - Head of Computing and Business



Discover your hidden talent for cyber security with over 200 free challenges

Join the community of over 70k 13-18 year olds training to become the next leaders in cyber security by playing a vast online training game.

Registration open, sign up now!

Already have an account? [Sign in](#)

Maths Puzzle:
 Draw a copy of the diagram and see if you can solve it. You're not allowed to go outside the walls of the room.
 Email a photo of your solution to Mr Ellis
dre13@blessedward.co.uk
 First correct answer gets a prize.

Can you connect the fridge, cooker and dishwasher to their sockets, so that the cables don't cross each other?

Dishwasher

Fridge

Cooker

Cooker Socket

Fridge Socket

Dishwasher Socket



Library News



Worcester Litfest Young Writers 2020

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate two of our students for winning prizes in their categories in the Worcester Litfest competition 2020. Thirty-nine students from Blessed Edward Oldcorne entered, writing a 300-word story on the theme "Words and Pictures".

Years 7-9

3rd Place - The Day I was Saved by a Whale Shark, by Daniel 8W

Years 10-12

1st Place - Waves, by Daniel 11C

The judges said that the standard was very high and enjoyed reading the stories. An anthology will be published, to include the winning entrants and as many of the other stories as space allows. All students who entered will be invited (dependant on regulations regarding social gatherings) to an awards ceremony, to share their stories and for the winning students to receive their prizes. Further details of this will follow in due course.



We are delighted to have Kevin Brooke as our College Patron of Reading. He is a regular visitor to our College and has encouraged students to enjoy reading and writing. Kevin is involved with the Worcestershire Literature Festival, and we are proud that several of our students have won prizes and awards in the Young Writers section. Many of their stories have been published in the anthology.



The College Library may be closed for a little while, but you can still borrow books.

Check out the new Click and Deliver service.



Log into the Eclipse Library catalogue, using your library number for both username and password to reserve your books

Reserved books will be delivered to form tutors

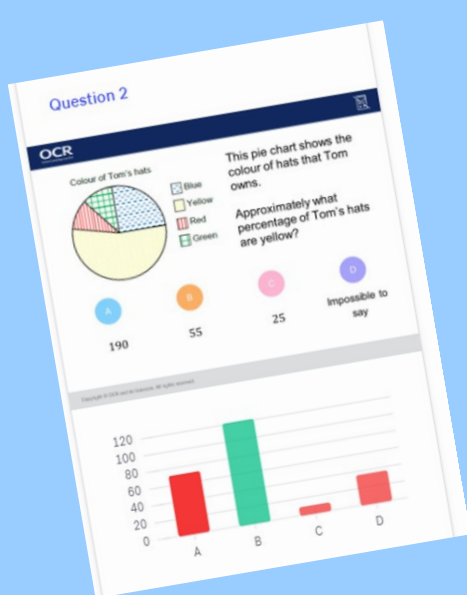
Find the Eclipse link on any computer or device via the College Website

Jolly Good Reads

Noughts and Crosses
The Bunker Diary
Northern Lights
Skulduggery Pleasant
Storm Breaker
Percy Jackson
Mortal Engines
Deadman's Cove
Private Peaceful
Geek Girl
Matilda
Artemis Fowl
A Monster Calls
The Maze Runner

Malorie Blackman
Kevin Brooks
Philip Pullman
Derek Landy
Anthony Horowitz
Rick Riordan
Philip Reeve
Lauren St John
Michael Morpurgo
Holly Smale
Roald Dahl
Rick Riordan
Patrick Ness
James Dashner





Eedi

In September all of Year 7 were given access to Eedi. The platform allows students to do weekly diagnostic quizzes, which allows teachers to see which students are finding concepts difficult. The Year 7s are making good progress with these quizzes. Parents can also get involved with Eedi as reports are generated after each topic has been completed - highlighting a child's retained knowledge and their difficulties. It provides prompts to invite discussion, regardless of a parent's own understanding. Progress is mapped overtime and comparable against the classes overall performance. The parent will also get their child's areas to improve and supporting resources for their child. Students should all have stickers with their own and parental log in details but please email your child's teacher if you have any difficulties accessing the app.

Mrs Connolly - Head of Maths

We welcome 8 Teacher trainees to our school this half term from Worcester University, Gloucester University (PGCE) and Prince Henry's, Evesham (SCIT). They have joined Maths, English, Science, DT Food, MFL and PE.

Mrs Taylor - Professional Mentor



Mrs H Taylor
Professional Mentor

Teacher Training



Hopeful Humanities

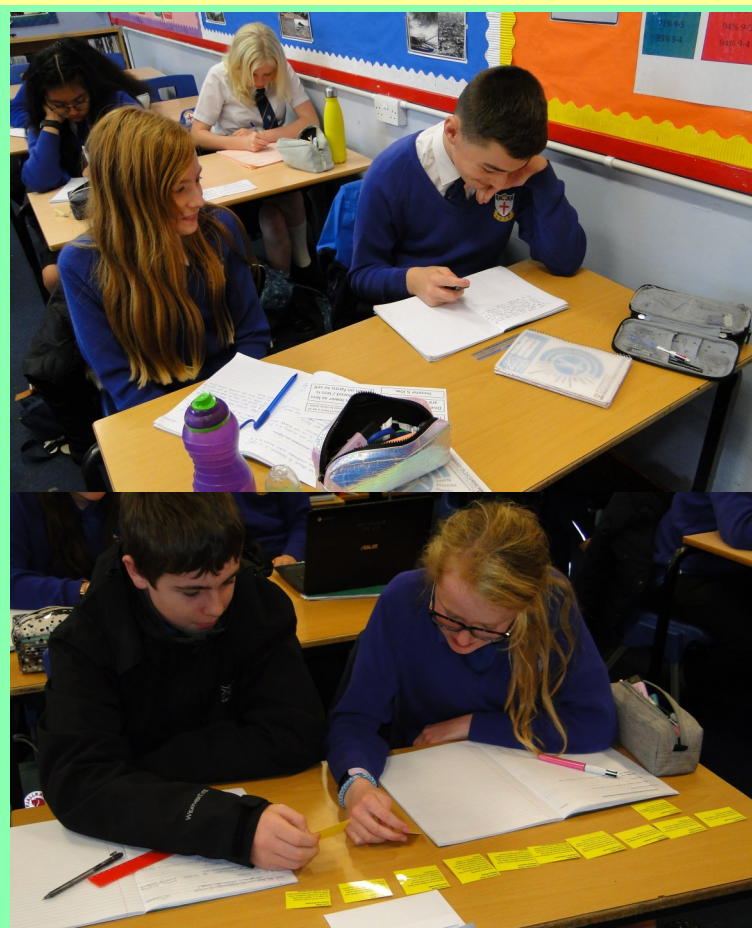
The departmental virtue in Humanities is to be 'HOPEFUL'. We recognise that we must study the world we live in, both in the present and in the past, in order to pave the way for a better future.

Our new Year 7 students have been looking at how our current study of geography comes from the Ancient Greeks and are looking at where lines of latitude come from and to how we find places on ordnance survey maps. They are also learning how to recognise 'Fake News' and not to believe everything they see or hear.

Year 8 students have been investigating moral and spiritual dilemmas. They have been considering the impact of forcing religious beliefs on people and the impact it has had in the past. In addition, they have been considering where our money goes when we spend it, particularly looking at the USA, China, Vietnam and Nigeria.

In Year 9 students begin to deal with more complex ideas about whether we have equality in the world and whether our understanding of the world is wrong. Studying issues such as child mortality and gender discrimination show us that countries overall are improving, but there is still a lot to do.

Mr Jessop & Mrs Sparey - Humanities Department



These included Worcester Sixth Form College, King Edward VI College, Hagley Catholic High School Sixth Form, Hanley Castle High School and Sixth Form Centre, Heart of Worcestershire College, the Royal Grammar School and Worcestershire Apprenticeships. These presentations will remain available for Year 11 students and their parents to view in the careers google classroom.





8L have been busy making a "jar of smiles" to put their own personal memories and positive quotes in throughout the year that they can reflect on.

Mrs Taylor - Creative Arts



Child Development

Autumn 2020

This term, Year 11 childcare students have finished the exam unit ready for our mock exam and are now moving on to one of two coursework

units. This coursework unit covers nutritional needs and equipment for babies



0-5 years. We are currently learning about the pros and cons of bottle and breastfeeding and comparing them both in order to make recommendations to new mums. Next week we are going to be making our own formula bottle feeds which will go towards our final mark in the coursework!

The Year 10's are doing really well with the first learning objective of the exam unit. This includes understanding roles and responsibilities of parenthood, preconception health and reproduction and they are making menstrual cycle bracelets as revision aids this week!

Malaika and Lana - Year 11 Childcare Prefects

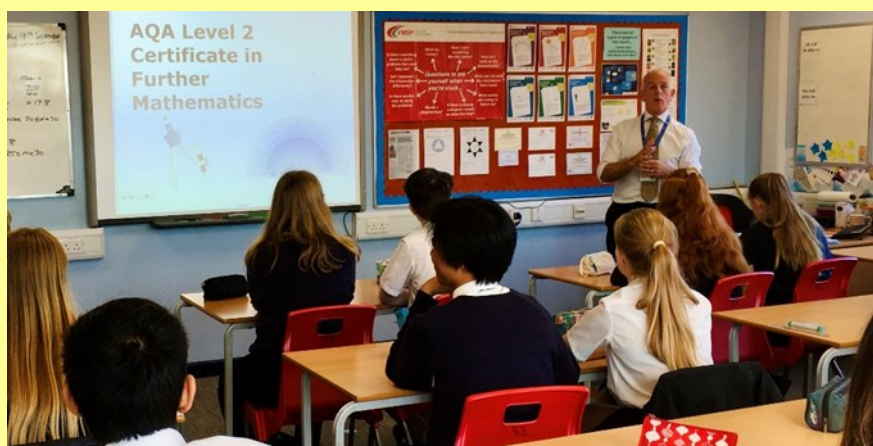
Taking Maths Further

Each year, we run an extra group for Year 11 students who are aiming for high grades at GCSE and are thinking about taking Mathematics at A level or beyond. This is to study for the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics, which is a qualification positioned as a bridge between GCSE and A Level, designed to consolidate high GCSE grades, and to introduce a few topics that will be studied in the 6th Form. There is one lesson a week, after school for an hour each Wednesday. This year, 32 students signed up, and we are now well into our challenging syllabus. The new topics that the students will meet include introductory calculus, working with matrices, analysis of functions and trigonometric identities.

Judging by their enthusiasm so far, we have every reason to anticipate that this year's cohort will achieve equally good grades as in the past few years, and be spurred on to choose Maths, and perhaps even Further Maths at A Level.

Mrs Connolly, Head of Maths, said "I'm delighted that so many of our able mathematicians have chosen to take this course. Doing Maths related subjects at A Level is a great preparation for so many different careers."

Mr Ellis - Maths Teacher





In Science we have always done our best to include as much practical, hands on experience for the students as possible. This improves student engagement and helps them to understand the sometimes, complex theories in Science. Since returning to College in September, we have had to change our risk assessment policies to adapt the way we all work to ensure the safety of technicians, teachers and students. This has led to considerable work for our technicians to prepare, deliver and clear away practical equipment to include cleaning, sanitising and equipment quarantine time. A huge thank you to our wonderful technicians, as without them there would be very little, if no practical work being carried out in Science.

Mrs Lynn—Head of Science



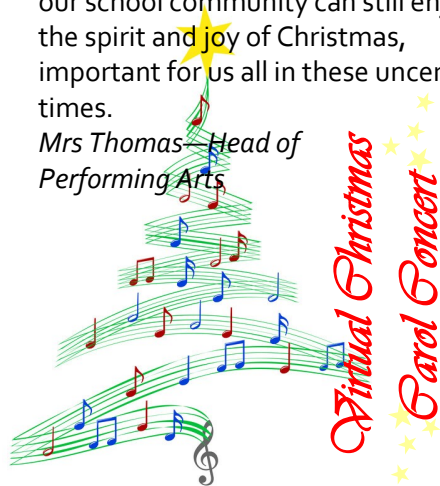
Performing Arts

A small choir of 10 students and the soul band performed for the virtual Open Evening. It wasn't our usual way this year but it was great to see students performing again!

Schemes of learning have been adapted to ensure that our students continue to have as inclusive a music curriculum as we are allowed. We have also managed to sing in bigger groups outside with coats on!!!

We are working on a virtual Carol Service this year which is in keeping with our school ethos. Students from different year groups will perform carols and readings so that our school community can still enjoy the spirit and joy of Christmas, important for us all in these uncertain times.

Mrs Thomas—Head of Performing Arts



We have enjoyed celebrating National Poetry Day this year with students from all our year groups participating in creative poetry writing lessons with the theme being 'vision' and seeing life like a poet. Hopefully you were able to see the examples that were shared on our social media page, along with some of the teacher's favourite poems.

November is Black History Month, why not encourage your children to read from the wide range of texts recommended by the National Literacy Trust that can be found on our website. Mrs Bromyard has also written a list of books that you can order from the school library, this can be found on Eclipse.

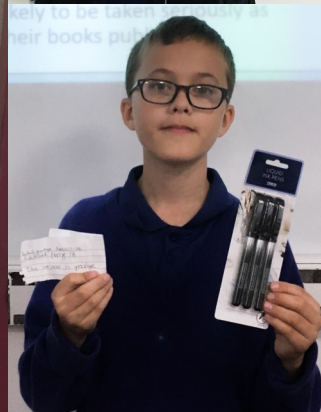
This year's Language and Literary Detective competition has got off to a flying start this year with Year 7 and 8 monopolising the accolade of being the top Language and Literary detectives each week. Well done to Toby, Naomi and Ethan in Year 8, and Ava, Savannah and Edward in Year 7. Each week winners get to choose their prize from Miss Case's "really useful" prize selection!

Each week there is a new language mystery to solve or challenge to complete, as well as a literary puzzle or challenge, and students can choose to enter one or both competitions. Recent language challenges have been to find out which are the only two words in the English language to end with the letters "gry" and make the longest word possible with only four letters. Meanwhile, literary challenges have been to find out who Ellis, Currer and Acton Bell were better known as and why they used pseudonyms, as well as which children's writer had a job tasting Cadbury's chocolate as a schoolboy.

Gothic Fiction

Year 8 and 9 were asked to complete some tasks on gothic fiction as part of their bridging learning over the summer holidays, and this term were invited to take part in our gothic competition based on this learning. Well done to Eva in 8S who was the clear winner, scoring an impressive 20 out of 20. Later this year all students in Year 8 will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of this literary genre by studying Jane Eyre and Macbeth, while Year 9 will study Jane Eyre and Hamlet.

Photos: Winner Eva along with Language and Literary Detective competition winners.



Sports

The Primary programme has kicked off this year with 4 schools having a "Gifted & Talented Sports Leadership" course being delivered in their schools with their sports crews, change for life and sports ambassadors teams. The students can now create their own small group activities to lead at break-times and lunchtimes. Within their bubbles they can record activities for younger groups to take part in throughout the school.

Miss Ingram—Sports Coordinator

Sports Hall Athletics is slightly different this year as the weather has been so glorious the competitions that have been held within the primary schools have all gone ahead outside. A slightly adapted format of events has enabled the Year 6 classes to all take part in this competition, which has been great to see so much enthusiasm and passion.

Miss Ingram—Sports Coordinator

Football training afterschool has been excellent since starting in September. The club is open to boys and girls and has seen over 50 Year 7 students and 15-20 Year 8 students, showing good commitment to training.

Due to the clocks being changed we will now have football training on a Monday afterschool on the floodlit astro and sports hall after half term, therefore trainers only.

Mr Williams & Miss Mason - PE Teachers

Congratulations to Maisie in Year 7 who finished 1st in the U18 girls' division at the British Junior Golf Tour finals held at Foxhills Golf Club, Surrey. She has been crowned 'British Junior Golf Tour Girls Tour Champion'. Maisie also finished 3rd in the Tour Championship Order of Merit which was mixed boys and girls. The tour was played over the whole season with 250 players taking part. Maisie is a member of Gaudet Luce Golf Club and during the season her handicap tumbled from 19 to 11. Well done Maisie!

