

BLESSED EDWARD OLDCORNE

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

www.blessededward.co.uk



2020 Christmas Card
Winner - Patrick Year 11

**December
2020 Newsletter**

Dear Parent at the end of another term I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our college. Our staff and students have risen to the challenges that the term has brought and I look back at what we have achieved with a mixture of pride and incredulity. I am sure that the New Year will bring fresh challenges but we will face them as a community and work together to ensure that your children continue to get the education they deserve. Among the events we have been unable to hold in the college this term, perhaps the greatest loss has been our Carol Service. Our annual celebration is when we gather to remember and celebrate the true meaning of the Christmas season and the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This year we have a recorded version on our website and although shorter I hope it will bring you both joy and comfort as we approach this Christmas. I would like to thank Mr James, Mrs Thomas and Mr Long for all the effort they put into preparing it for you.

We say farewell to a couple of staff at the end of this term. Mr Gallagher has decided to retire after 16 years of service to the college. Mr Gallagher was an outstanding Maths teacher and he also gave so much to our college in many other ways. He was a regular supporter of our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, led the backstage team at many college productions and often gave up his holiday time to run revision and support sessions for Year 11 students. We will all miss his wit and wisdom. Mr Hankins is leaving after three years with us to teach at St Augustine's in Redditch and we wish him every success and thank him for his excellent work in the maths department. Mr James is staying with us but will be stepping down after 10 years as Head of RE. During this time Mr James has ensured that our RE department has remained outstanding and has led the department with distinction and integrity. On behalf of everyone in the college I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr James for everything that he has brought and will continue to bring to our college. Our new Head of RE, Miss Aimee Parsons will be joining us in January. She

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



Mr McCormack



Mrs Corbin



Mrs Smith



Miss Stokes



Mr Edmunds



Mrs Jones



Safeguarding Governor
 Mrs Girling

Chair of Governors
 Mr Carney

LAC Governor
 Mr Barclay

Prevent Single Point of Contact
 Mr McClarey, Miss Mason

is currently Head of RE at St John Henry Newman school in Birmingham and she will be leading an experienced and committed team of teachers.

I hope that you get some precious family time this Christmas and that even though we may not be physically with all of our loved ones over the holiday season we can draw strength from the fact that there is hope on the horizon. With every best wish, prayer and blessing

Greg McClarey - Headteacher

As we come to the end of an extraordinary year, I would like to pay tribute to Mr McClarey and the staff for the remarkable work they have done to provide a safe learning environment for our children. I would also like to congratulate the students for adapting to this unusual routine and continuing to work hard and achieve. I wish you all a very peaceful and safe Christmas. I say every Christmas, for me it starts with the carol service and this year, even being Virtual, I am sure will be the same so please join us all on the 17th December at 7pm to see our children take part in this seasonal start to Christmas.

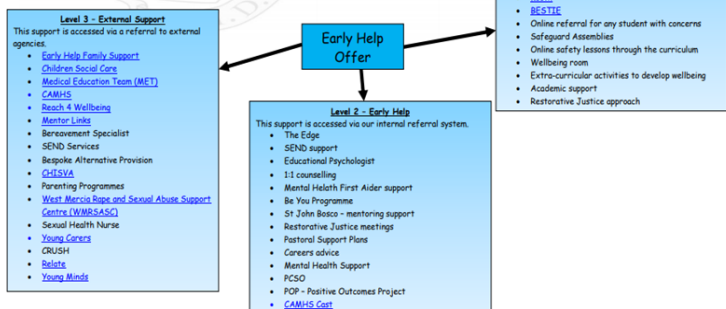
Thank you all from the governing body and hope for an end to this pandemic and a much happier 2021 where we can gather together at school to see our children's achievements.

Philip Carney - Chair of Governors

- Key Dates**
- 4th January - Students Return to College
 - 11th January - Year 10 Assessment Week
 - 13th January - Year 9 Parents' Evening
 - 18th January - Christian Unity Week Begins
 - 21st January - Students finish at 1:35 for Staff Curriculum Planning Afternoon
 - 27th January - Blessed Edward Oldcorne Feast Day Mass
 - 25th January - Year 8 and 9 Assessment Week
 - 31st January - St. John Bosco Feast Day
 - 11th February - Year 7 Parents' Evening
 - 12th February - Students Finish for Half Term

Safeguarding continues over the page...

["Click here to visit this webpage"](#)



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.

TikTok Update Parental Controls with Family Pairing Feature (SWGfL)

TikTok is used by many teenagers and sometimes children younger than 13 despite its terms and conditions. Using the new Family Pairing feature can allow parents to guide their child's TikTok experience in a safer way. Features include:

- Search: Decide what can be searched for. This includes content, users, hashtags, or sounds
- Screen Time Management: Sets how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day
- Discoverability: Decide on the account being private (you decide who can see their content) or public (anyone can search and view content)

To find out more information about TikTok's Family Pairing feature and to download a helpful poster to share with students and parents, go to: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

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>

Prevent

Counter Terrorism Policing has launched a new safeguarding website www.actearly.uk to encourage family and friends to share concerns, that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

What will the website aim to do?

Help increase Prevent referrals from family and friends into the police by increasing awareness, trust and understanding of the police's safeguarding role.

Specifically by:

- Increasing awareness of where to go for further information and support
- Increasing awareness of the signs of radicalisation
- Increased understanding of and confidence in the Prevent referral process
- Encouraging referrals from concerned family and friends at an early stage
- Highlighting the police safeguarding role in Prevent

Ready Steady Worcestershire

Ready Steady Worcestershire is a partnership between Worcestershire Children First, Worcestershire County Council, District Councils and the Voluntary Sector. The group works together to respond to families in need of help and support during the school holidays, including the provision of food and activities. The attached guide contains information on how this support is accessed.

Safeguarding continues over the page...



Courses for Parents

Please see below some courses that have been designed for parents and carers for 2021. Some of these courses have been designed to meet the needs of parents and carers based on partners requests and some of them have been designed to attract parents and carers to support need we have identified. All of them are short 6 or 8 week courses, majority of them are in the evenings (as this suits parents and carers best).

All of the courses are listed at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses and at the moment they are free for all parents and carers to book onto.

Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule Course

COVID-19 is affecting almost every part of our daily lives, someday though it will all be a memory. We are living through a momentous, historic time but likely won't remember all of it - this course is to capture the moment. Together you will make things to help your family remember the significance of this time that don't cost any money. You will also take the time to make a memory box to store it all in to share with your family in years to come.

Managing Mindfulness for Parents and Carers of those with SEND

This course is for adults, parents or carers who are supporting and caring for children, young people or adults with special needs and disabilities. The course will take you through mindfulness for anxiety management, the 5 steps to wellbeing and how to manage "coke bottle affects" or meltdowns. It will teach you positive risk taking, relaxation and calming techniques and give you knowledge of understanding behaviour and support you with prevention, de-escalation techniques and strategies.

Family Crafts ESOL

A Family crafting session for parents and carers who have English as a second or other language. This course will support parents and carers learning the English Language and will support them with their child in the school environment and at home.

Zog's Fire Breathing Adventures

Join Zog with your pre-school child on his fire breathing adventures as a student in dragon school. This fun short course will have you roaring with laughter as you make some wonderful creative pieces with your fun Family Learning tutor online in the comfort of your own home. Each session a story will be read and you will be given ideas to make easy, yet wonderful, arty activities for your child.

Nurture Course for parents of children with SEND

This course is for all parents and carers of children with special needs and disabilities to give them time for themselves to nurture their own health and wellbeing. This course will be led by our friendly Family Learning Tutor who will give you time to explore some new arty ideas and create some new crafting activities whilst offloading with other parents and carers in similar family situations. This course

will give you 'time for you' to enjoy some new activities.

Time For You - Your turn to Learn

This is a progression course from 'Your Turn to Learn' course. Learners on this course will progress from having time for them in a group with a tutor to start thinking about what their learning journey might look like and what they would like to learn next. We will aim to empower learners to take a step in their future and consider that it is their turn to learn and want to seek the next step.

Art in your Heart - Online course for Parents

This short course is an online course for parents and carers to explore different art in the comfort of your own home online with other parents. Using art can help you work through stresses you might be facing and empower you to feel positive mental wellbeing. This course really focusses on using art in different forms to support you to feel happier and encourage your self-awareness.

Time for You - Parents Online Course

This course is for all parents and carers that are interested in having some time for them following the lock-down and isolation period this year. This course will be delivered by our friendly Family Learning Tutor and will give you time to do some mindfulness activities, take your mind off any issues you may face, use it as a time to offload and talk about what we have been through with Covid-19 and empower you to find a positive mental wellbeing.

Thinking about Employment for Parents ONLINE

Have you thought about returning to work having been a parent at home? Not sure where to start or how to feel ready for this big step of change? This course is for any parent who might be thinking about maybe starting to find employment having been a parent staying at home. This course will empower you to start to feel ready to consider your own future now that your children are at school. On this course you will learn about our Adult Learning Team and the courses you might want to attend next.

Marvellous Me - After Lock down (Online)

This course is for parents and carers that would like some support and 'time for me' after "lock down". This is a course usually delivered in schools for parents but will be online. Returning to the "norm" after lock down may feel different for some. This course will offer mindfulness & positive well-being activities to nurture yourself with other parents. Each session (led by our friendly tutor) will give you time to offload, make friends, try activities, do art and colour therapy.

Miss Mason - Designated Safeguard Lead

This term as part of European film week each year group in Key Stage 3 watched a film in target language. Year 8 watched the film 'The book thief' and Year 9 studied 'Sarah's Key' or 'Jojo Rabbit'. Both of these films explored what life was like in Germany and France during WWII. We also took the opportunity to discuss themes linked to the Holocaust.

Mrs Low - 2nd i/c MFL

EUROPEAN
FILM
FESTIVAL 2020

Who were the often forgotten armies?

As I mentioned in my Remembrance assembly in November it is important to recognise the contribution made during the First & Second World Wars by troops from around the world, not just Britain. Schools are also being asked to develop their curriculum so that they reflect the diverse world that we live in. Particularly in History we are often criticised for studying old white men!!!

One way we are seeking to address this, is with Year 9 and their study of the trenches in World War One. We have been looking at the experiences of non-white soldiers from around the world who fought in the trenches or contributed in some other way to the war effort. Here is a little bit about two individuals we have studied:

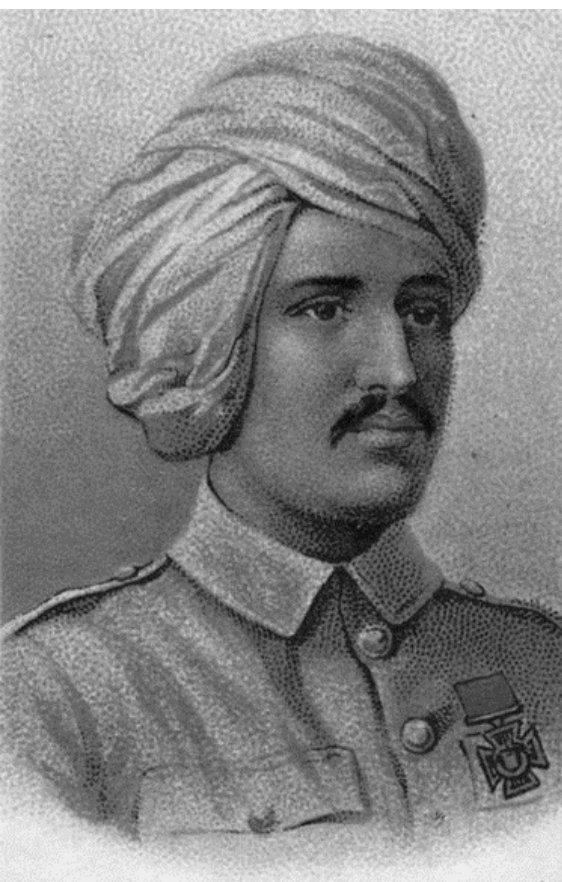
Corporal Mike Mountain Horse

Mike was a member of a First Nation tribe in Canada. The tribe is called the Bloods. After the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Britain called on its colonies to fight on the Western Front. Mike Mountain Horse arrived in France in 1917. He fought at a fierce battle called Vimy Ridge and again at the Battle of Cambrai, which was the first mass tank attack in history. At one point during the battle, Mike was buried under rubble

for four days. He survived, but he was later wounded. He was shipped to England to recover.

In 1919 he returned to the

Blood Reserve in Canada with the Distinguished Conduct Medal on his chest.



Ganga Singh

In October 1914. Singh was a member of the 57th Rifles, part of the largest volunteer army in the world and was involved in the Battle of Mons, the first major battle of the war. The Germans facing Singh had both artillery support and hand grenades. Singh's regiment only had two machine guns, and no grenades. The Indian army had been thrown hurriedly into battle to patch holes in British lines. Singh's regiment was desperately outnumbered. If the Germans captured the ridge he was holding, they would probably also capture the Channel ports: an unthinkable disaster. He was wounded and later found alive when the Germans were gone. The trenches he had defended were successfully re-taken by the 5th Dragoon Guards.

Mr S Jessop - Head of Humanities.



methodmaths

Method Maths

All students in Year 11 have now been issued with login details for methodmaths.com. The site is excellent for students to practise past GCSE papers online in preparation for their upcoming examinations. All papers are marked and graded online, offering helpful hints on the questions that the students have difficulty with. It was great to see so many students using the site for revision for their mock examinations. Keep up the good work Year 11!



Mrs Connolly - Head of Maths

6 Sue has 2 cats.

Each cat eats $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tin of cat food each day.

Sue buys 8 tins of cat food.

Has Sue bought enough cat food to feed her 2 cats for 14 days?
You must show how you get your answer.

?  

> tins



Hour of Code

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CS First

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CODE SPARK ACADEMY

OZARIA

Computer Science Week

We recently celebrated Computer Science Week 7-13th. Students completed various challenges that involved computational thinking: problem solving and coding using the hour of code. These are fun activities that help to promote Computer Science. If you want to have a look, please follow this link: www.code.org/learn

Do you enjoy films? Want to hear about a famous Computer Scientist who helped create modern computers? Aged 13+? Why not watch the Imitation Game or read the book about Alan Turing.

Key Stage 4 Creative iMedia and Enterprise and Marketing Exams

Students in Years 10 and 11 taking Creative iMedia will sit their exam for Ro81: Pre-Production skills on Monday 11th January. This is the real exam and will count towards their final GCSE grade. Revision materials are on the college website.

Enterprise and Marketing Exam

Students in Year 11 sit their exam for Enterprise and Marketing Ro64: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts on Wednesday 13th January. Again, this is a real exam and a revision checklist is live on the website now.

Mr Nicholls - Head of Computing



The Year 7 Science Club are busy building zoetrope's, phenakistiscope's and magic lanterns during Wednesday lunchtimes. The group have been learning all about the history of animation and using their practical and creative skills to create some amazing designs. Megan said it's been lovely to try new things every week, Ben commented that the club has been lots of fun and Ella added it's good to learn with friends. Summer said it's been a fun and interesting way to look back on the history of science. Thank you Miss Bone for organising the club and we look forward to lots of exciting activities next term.

Mrs Lynn - Head of Science





Library News



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

Check out the new Click and Deliver service.



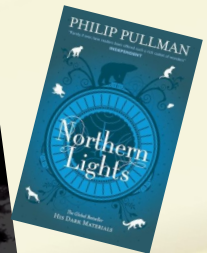
Log into the Eclipse Library catalogue, using your library number for both username and password to reserve your books

Reserved books will be delivered to form tutors

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

Popular Books This Term

Boy at the Back of the Class - Onjali Q Rauf
Zebra Crossing Soul Songs - Sita Brahmachari
The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins
Midnight Alley - Rachel Caine
Fling - David Walliams
Northern Lights - Philip Pullman
My Secret Diary - Jacqueline Wilson
Pig Heart Boy - Malorie Blackman
Bone Sparrow - Zana Fraillon
Coding with Scratch - Carol Vorderman



If you are looking for Christmas presents for teenagers you could try

Girl. Boy. Sea. by Chris Vick

Bill is lost and alone on an endless sea after a storm sinks his yacht. His future seems as unpredictable as the ocean itself. Everything changes when he rescues another survivor from a different wreck. She is Aya, from the nomadic Berber tribe.

Key Stage 3

The Good Hawk by Joseph Elliott

Set in a mythological Scotland, three young people find themselves the only survivors when their clan is attacked by warriors and they are forced to leave their home island of Skye. When all you've ever known is stolen, what will you risk to get it back?

Key Stage 3 and 4

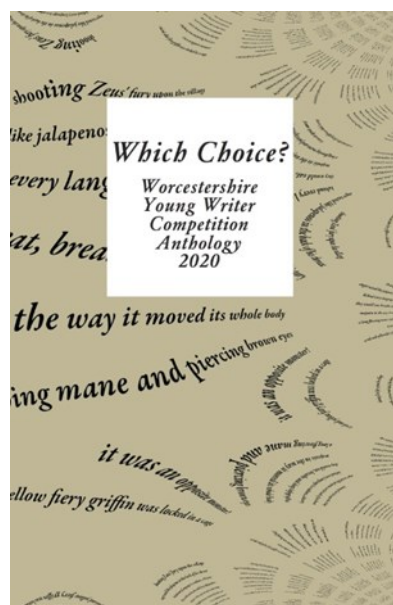
Lost by Eve Ainsworth

Alfie and Alice find comfort in their new friendship which helps them deal with issues within their home lives. When Alfie Turner loses his mum, it feels like his world is falling apart. She was the glue that held their family together and now that she's gone, Alfie and his dad don't really know what to do without her.

Key Stage 3

We are delighted that 22 of our students have been deservedly published in the Worcestershire Young Writers Anthology. The 300-word stories were written during lockdown, on the theme "Words and Pictures". Congratulations to everyone, and specially to Daniel Year 11 and Daniel Year 8, who came first and third respectively in their

Year group categories. Many thanks to our Patron of Reading, Kevin Brooke, for encouraging our students.





Mrs. Bromyard is currently operating a restricted library service due to social distancing requirements. Students can reserve books through Eclipse, the library online catalogue, and these books will be delivered to tutor groups. All students have been given their unique Eclipse number and shown how to access the catalogue by their tutor. However, it has also been possible to allow a small number of students to visit the library in lessons or at lunchtime. Year 7 students are lucky enough to be able to use the library every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime for reading or study, which has become a very popular activity using the following Covid-safe guidelines:

- Places can be booked in advance with Miss Case any breaktime, as there is a maximum of 15 students allowed.
- Students may browse the shelves with their eyes, and ask Mrs. Bromyard to take down for them any books they wish to read or use.
- Face masks should be worn while moving around the library, but can be removed when seated.

Mrs. Bromyard has a wealth of experience and knowledge and is happy to help students and answer any questions. She has also commented on the exemplary behaviour of Year 7 students in the library and been impressed at their interest and enthusiasm for reading. Here are some of our students' thoughts about the library:

There are books of all genres and by lots of authors." Isaac, 7C

"It's quiet up there so if you want to do homework you can do it." Euan, 7S

"There's lots of fun books and comics to read." Lauren, 7J

"It's quiet and peaceful." Jack, 7C

"I love the library because it is quiet, peaceful and a great place to learn and read. and it is stress free, this is why I love the library" - Grace, 7C

Thank you to Mrs. Bromyard for working to promote reading in college and for enabling our Year 7 students to make such effective use of the library.

Miss Case - 2nd i/c English



Medical Mavericks Human Guinea Pig Live Show for Year 9

Coronavirus has required us to find new, safe and inventive ways to deliver career information to students. Year 9 students have recently been treated to a performance of the Medical Mavericks Human Guinea Pig Show. The show was performed 'live' for Blessed Edwards and streamed into classrooms via a video platform. Students were introduced to the world of Healthcare Science, which is a set of around 50 careers in the NHS, that perform 85% of all diagnostic tests in a hospital. Many of these careers are accessible with levels 9-4 at GCSE and are a mix physiology, lab science, bio med, engineering and IT so there is something there for everyone! The show took students on a journey through nine fantastic Healthcare Science careers they never knew existed! These included Cardiac Physiology, Respiratory Physiology, Neurophysiology, Haematology, Medical Engineering, Bioinformatics and Vascular Science. Students were able to watch an exciting series of live medical tests which included an ultrasound machine being used to scan blood vessels, a photo being taken of the inside of an eye, they listened to a pulse with a doppler, and watched an ECG being recorded. Students also had the opportunity to watch some amazing video footage of more advanced tests in hospitals including a bronchoscopy. This virtual event enabled us to open students' eyes to the broad range of career opportunities available to them in Healthcare science.

Mrs Holland - Careers and Aspirations Coordinator





In November, students from Years 7 and 9 planted a total of 120 trees to form a hedge. The trees were provided by the Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. All involved had a wonderful time and we were fortunate to have a perfect day weather wise. Our groundsman Mr Brookes was on hand to help with planting tips. Students considered how planting trees provides safe havens for wildlife and increases biodiversity which in turn helps to conserve our wildlife. The trees planted will contribute to the struggle against climate change. Students were keen to go home and plant more trees in their own gardens.

Mrs Strauss - Science Teacher



Sports

This half term our Catholic primaries have had a mini multi-sports festival in their schools which has been very enjoyable to deliver and great to see so many smiley Year 1 faces enjoying themselves whilst they try the range of skills necessary for different sports.

St Joseph's, Worcester have also had a gymnastics lesson delivered to their Year 2s which was fantastic to see so many pair routines from the space of time they had to learn it.

The primary schools are also busy learning and rehearsing their dance routines for an online dance showcase just before Christmas.

I am very pleased that we have adapted to the current guidelines and been able to deliver sport to the primary schools with minimal disruption. Roll on 2021!

Miss Ingram - Sports Coordinator

