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CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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Girls rugby coaching with Worcester Warriors
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Blessed Edward
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College



Newsletter

July 2021



We have so much to show you.

Dear Parent, as another academic year draws to a close I would like to thank you for your support and understanding during a challenging time for all. Our students continue to inspire us on a daily basis with their good humour and willingness to fully engage in all aspects of college life. As you know our vision is for everyone in our community to develop and grow as people of good character in line with our college virtues. One of these virtues is "hopeful" and I am hopeful that despite the challenges our students have faced this year they will continue to achieve and be happy in school. Another of our virtues is "grateful" and I am always grateful for the support and understanding of you, our parents. We never take this support for granted and I can assure you that we will continue to leave no stone unturned to ensure that your child gets the education they deserve. As I said in a recent letter this academic year has highlighted the importance of school, not just in terms of our students' academic studies but also in terms of their wellbeing, fitness and opportunities to live life to the full. As always I am hopeful about the future, whilst recognising there are further challenges ahead. What makes me hopeful about the future is based on the wonderful young people that we work with, laugh with and walk alongside every day. I would like to wish you all a restful summer period and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Greg McClarey - Headteacher

Safeguarding

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 recognizes 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...

(Click the picture to enlarge)

Article continues on next page...



The school year is coming to an end and this year, like the previous year it has been hard on every single student and their families. Learning is a key part of every child's development and at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic Collage we are striving to focus on this point. However this is hard, especially when absence rates for our children are so high. As an example on the 29th June only 41% of students were present in school due to Covid related issues affecting the rest. This equates to 347 students present out of a possible 840. These figures worsened for a short time as we had to send around 40 Year 7 students home soon after this data was collated. Numbers are changing all the time. Being vigilant and taking every care to protect ourselves and others is still a huge responsibility for each one of us. Please work with the school to keep our children and families safe.

Philip Carney - Chair of Governors

Key Dates

2nd September - Teacher Education Day

3rd September - Year 7 ONLY return

6th September - Year's 7, 10 and 11 ONLY in college

6th September - Year's 8 and 9 Online Learning

7th September - All Year Groups in College

16th September - Year 11 Expectations Evening

17th September - Welcome Back Masses

27th September - Recall Tests - Year's 8-11

30th September - Open Evening

12th October - Year 7 Welcome Mass

14th October - Year 8 RSHE Day

19th October - Curriculum Planning Afternoon - school closes at 1.35

20th October - Year 11 RSHE Day

21st October - Year 7 Pastoral Parents Evening

Online Safety

It may feel daunting to talk about staying safe online – especially when your children are using the internet differently to you. Over the summer holidays please ensure you are monitoring your child's internet use to keep them safe online. Here are some resources to support you.

<https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/wscb/parents-carers/online-safety/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Water Safety

More than 400 people accidentally drown in the UK and Ireland every year and many more have non-fatal experiences, sometimes suffering life-changing injuries. Here is a link for water safety tips for the summer holidays: <https://www.rlss.org.uk/summer-water-safety>



Family Learning Courses

Family Learning courses are for parents and carers so they can support their child and family at home and develop their own skills improving their health and wellbeing, improving their social interactions by making friends and engaging in a group, supporting them to find volunteer opportunities or empowering them to progress to further accredited courses or into employment.

Link to book onto courses: www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses

Mental Health Support

If your child is struggling over the summer holidays with their mental health and wellbeing they could access support via the links below:

Link to WCC Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing page: [Mental health and emotional wellbeing | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Kooth 'your online mental wellbeing community' Home - [Kooth](#)

Kooth is staffed by fully trained and qualified counsellors and is available until 10pm each night, 365 day per year. It is free, safe and provides a non-stigmatising way for young people to receive counselling, advice and support online.

Reach 4 Wellbeing Reach 4 Wellbeing | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust hacw.nhs.uk

The Reach 4 Wellbeing team aims to promote positive wellbeing, reaching children and young people in their communities to reduce the stigma of mental health. They provide short-term group programmes for children and young people aged 5-18 experiencing mild to moderate anxiety and low mood, using cognitive behaviour therapy-based principles. Reach 4 Wellbeing is a self-referral service.

Healthy Minds Home | [Healthy Minds \(whct.nhs.uk\)](http://HealthyMinds(whct.nhs.uk))

Free confidential support, including online therapy, groups, and courses, 1:1 support and resources appropriate for your individual needs.

CAMHS CAST Service | [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](http://HerefordshireandWorcestershireHealthandCareNHSTrust(hacw.nhs.uk))

Consultation, Advice, Supervision and Training for professionals working directly with children and young people experiencing or at risk of mental health difficulties.

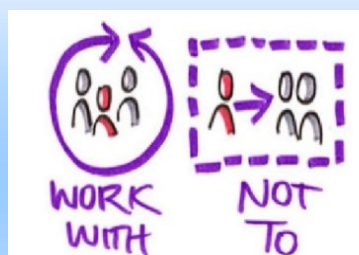
PAPYRUS Home | [Papyrus UK](http://PapyrusUK) | Suicide Prevention Charity (papyrus-uk.org)

Suicide prevention support, offering free and confidential helplines, advice, webchats, and resources.

Winston's Wish giving hope to grieving children (winstonswish.org)

Bereavement support for children and young people following the death of a sibling, parent or a person important to a child.

S.E.N.D. News



Co-producing, it's all about working together

It is so important that when trying to understand how best to support a young person with SEND we work as part of team. We are part of a whole school community where just like a ship Captain and crew we all have different journeys to navigate. A young person with SEND is on a journey, just like you think of the ship as having to be constantly in motion, a ship always has to make correctional changes to reach its target, a ship has a captain that decides on direction, a ship has a crew who needs to be working together to help the ship reach its destination. A ship could be considered as going on an adventure. We are part of the ship's crew. The ship is useless on its own it needs a crew that communicates, plans, and thinks ahead. It needs to problem solve when there are storms along the journey, it needs to allow others to come aboard to support when the crew may need fresh ideas, other knowledge or skills. Everyone on board needs to be resilient, focused and have the shared goals at the centre of the outcomes.

Co-production is best when all stakeholders work together with a young person to share information. We intend to make sure there is a thorough approach to providing each student with as many opportunities and support as needed, to experience emotional stability to learn and wellbeing to be educated. We work on initiatives co-providing, assessing, reviewing, discussing, evaluating in order to learn and grow together. We all work on co-delivery of services, including peer support, buddying, mentoring and lesson support.

Each students needs vary, even if they have similar learning or additional needs.

Parents "A" have a son currently in Key Stage 3 and have shared that:

"As parents we are delighted with the high level of support our child receives from the SEND department. Right from the start, before he became a student at the college, I was given the opportunity to discuss his disability and learning needs with the SENDco. My son was offered an additional transition day in Year 6 which he found very helpful. I had an opportunity to discuss more practical issues he can present with in terms of his presentation and learning needs with his experienced Learning Support Mentor. As my child had other agencies involved in supporting his medical and social needs the school needed to work collaboratively with his consultant paediatrician, consultant psychologist, occupational therapist, psychotherapist as well as his post adoption social worker. This was done well, and actions put into place. The SENDco also engaged in the EHCP process, where the local authority SEND service refused to assess my child's needs. With the help of the college this decision was overturned as the SENDco worked with the Complex Communication Needs teacher and educational psychologist who assessed our son. The findings of the report were put into place and the SENDco worked hard to make sure that the Head of Year, Form Tutor and all subject teachers and mentoring staff were aware of how to support our son to achieve his potential.

Our son had a few difficult experiences at the beginning of his student life and the SENDco, as well as his Learning Support Mentor and Head of Year, responded promptly and have been extremely supportive of me as a parent, listening, offering advice and support. Without the additional scaffolding offered by the SEND department I am unsure how much my son would be able to access both educationally and socially, despite being a very intelligent young man. The staff in the department were always accessible to me, either by email or by phone. The particular challenges of the worldwide pandemic haven't affected my son at school much - with his learning support mentor understanding his anxiety over covid. Over the years my son had support at the beginning of the school day, meet & greet, end of school day, every lunchtime 1 to 1 support with support to reengage in the lunch free time, support with his diary, how to study, how to do

S.E.N.D. News

homework, how to make friends, supervision when needed etc. My son has an excellent relationship with his Learning Support Mentor and has no qualms about asking for help. The department always responded promptly as need arose, but when required has been proactive in planning forward to meet likely future need.

I cannot rate the SEND support at the school highly enough - for my child AND for me as his parent. This is what home/school relationship should look like in all schools."

Parents "B" have a daughter with an Educational Health Care Plan and have shared:

"Once we knew our daughter had a place at Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Catholic School Mrs Fitzer (SENDco) arranged transition days so she could familiarise herself with the school because it was a big jump from primary school to high school.

Mrs Fitzer arranged a meeting at the school to go through our daughter's EHCP so she could put into place the resources that she would need on a day to day basis.

Mrs Fitzer also liaises with other agencies to visit and assess our daughter. We are given updates of these visits and programmes within school that she can access to help with her self-esteem and confidence.

In the first couple of weeks our daughter was met by a Learning Support Mentor (TA) at the gate to take into school which was brilliant as this gave her the confidence to do this by herself.

Year on year we meet to review our daughter's progress against her EHCP, the last 12 months have been a challenge to meet due to the pandemic but again technology has allowed us to review her progress and stay in touch with all her teachers and key staff.

The biggest benefit to us as parents is that we can pick up the phone or send an email if we need to discuss homework etc ...we always get a quick response back.

Our daughter has also benefited from having a Mentor that helps her in class and on a one to one basis to concentrate on learning, experiencing life skills outside of the curriculum and to be able to function in the outside world after school.

We feel that co-production is very important because as parents we can get involved working with teachers to improve the educational development of our children.

We are very grateful for the support from the SEND team, Headteacher and Teachers at the school to help our daughter with her learning needs and keeping her safe and happy."

Parent "C", who has a son in Key Stage 3 has worked closely with school this academic year, in what has been an even more challenging year than it would ordinarily have been, has shared that:

"Co-production works for us. Since my son started in Year 7 at Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Catholic College the SEND team have worked closely with us. They have worked with me to establish what support is needed. I have been very happy with the results in this academic year. This has also led to a happier and calmer home life. This also results in a mum who is less stressed and more relaxed when he is at school knowing we have worked together for the best possible plans for my son. We are continuing to find out what works for him and what doesn't."

Co-production is the best way for us to support and take students on their journey through their secondary school education. There are often challenges and difficult conversations that take place, parents who have children with SEND needs frequently have multiple agencies to deal with and can struggle to get the support that they need for their child. It isn't always straightforward and there are times where we need to problem solve, have honest and frank discussions and work on restorative practices. It is imperative that parents and all key staff are involved in moving forward to find suitable solutions.

Mrs Fitzer - SENDco



This term, Year 8 students have been studying Fashion in MFL lessons, Year 8 German students (and teachers!) took part in a Fashion Show on 27th May in the Main Hall. Students used the catwalk to show off their outfits and described them in German. It was great to see Year 8s enjoying themselves and practising their Languages at the same time. The winning group was the "Supermärkte" who made their

outfits from different Supermarket plastic bags. A special thanks to Harry who coordinated all of the presentations for the day. We can't wait for the Spanish catwalk show in July.

Mrs Parker - Head of MFL Department



In Science we have taken advantage of the recent nice weather and spent some Ecology lessons outside by the School Pond. We used our classification keys to identify different organisms within and around the water, which has allowed us a better understanding of how they fit within that ecosystem. Students identified lots of different plants and animals, which we used to create potential food webs back in the classroom, showing us the interdependence within that community. Our favourite catches were the Smooth Newts and the prettiest things we saw were the Common Blue Damselflies. We also spotted a recently vacated birds nest in the nearby hedge, showing how the pond can provide a food source for non-aquatic animals too! We are hoping for good weather in September so we can continue our investigations and compare the area between the seasons.

Mrs Fearn - Science Teacher





Fancy a challenge? Why not try some ciphers.....

We recently celebrated the birthday of Alan Turing on 23rd June by highlighting the importance of his work with computer science in lessons. An extraordinary man who did amazing things but was treated cruelly for being homosexual. I'm glad he has since received a Royal pardon and is finally receiving the credit he deserves. My favourite quote from Alan is: "Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine". What an inspiring quote for us all to reflect on.

GCHQ are running a 'Turing Challenge' with 12 puzzles for students to have a go at deciphering, well worth a try: www.gchq.gov.uk/information/turing-challenge

Have a great summer!

Mr Nicholls - Head of Computing

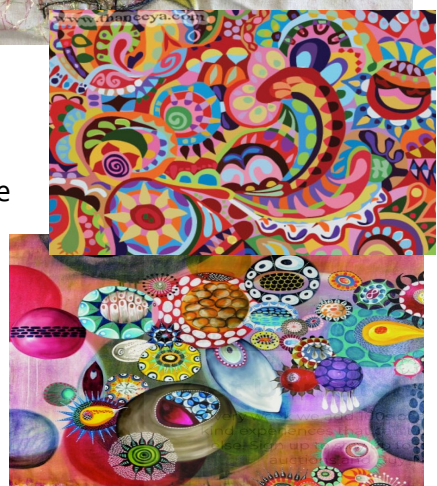


Year 8 Textiles

More of our super stars in Year 8 have been working with a range of decorative techniques.

Students have been inspired by pattern and colour from 2 artists:

- Melinda Hackett
- Thaneeya McArdle



Year 7 Textiles

In Design and Technology this term, all Year 7 students have been looking at fibres and fabrics. Investigating where fibres originate and the process of making them into fabrics. Here are just some of the fantastic weaving samples being produced.

Mrs Wones - Textiles Teacher

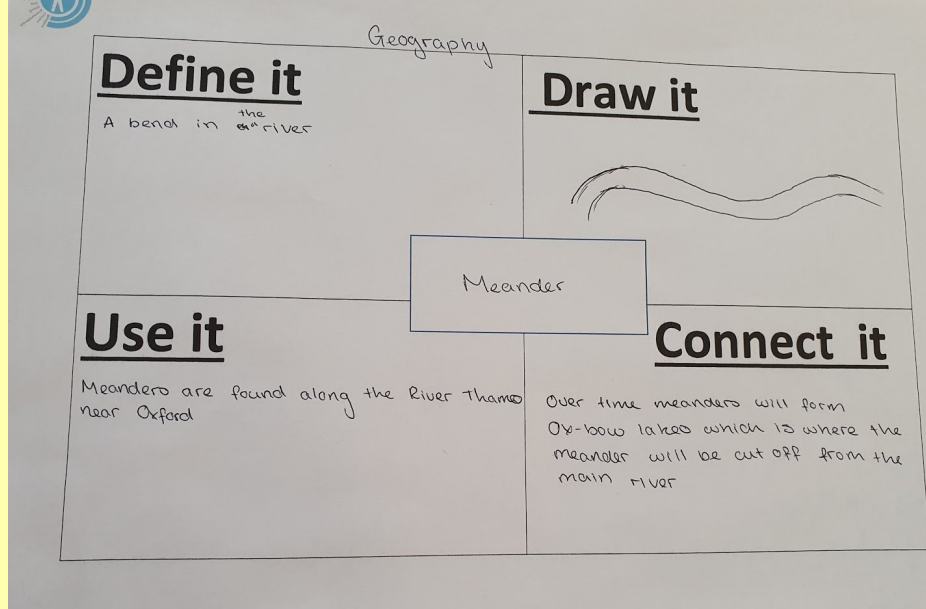


The Frayer Model

Key Stage 3 and 4 students have been trialling our new vocabulary graphic organiser (The Frayer Model) with fantastic first impressions. We are looking forward to developing this approach across the whole school from September.

Jack in Year 10 said "This is good because it gives us a visual representation of the meaning of the words and the format makes it clear."

Mrs Heppelthwaite - English Teacher



Be curious and gain knowledge this Summer!

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE!

Where will your reading take you this Summer?

Share your adventure with us, snap a photo of:

1. the front cover,
2. an extract that will give us a snapshot into the plot
3. a review explaining what you enjoyed

Entries to be submitted via email to readingcomp@blessededward.co.uk by 1st September.



Summer Reading

Where will reading take you this Summer? Share your adventure with the college community by snapping a photo of the front cover, an extract that will give us a snapshot into the plot and a mini review explaining to others why you enjoyed it. Entries to be submitted via email to:

readingcomp@blessededward.co.uk

by 1st September.

Coming soon: How well do you know your teachers? We are readers and have taken shelfies of our bookcases. Can you match the staff to the correct shelfie?

Mrs Heppelthwaite - English Teacher



What a bunch!
 Meet some of the
 Flanimal Family
 In Art & Design Year 8 have
 enjoyed creating their own
 personal characters
 out of clay.
Mrs McFarland
Art Teacher



Work Experience has gone virtual

Some students in Years 8 and 9 have been participating in Virtual Work Experience this term.

Virtual Work Experience opens up the possibility for students to explore new jobs and industries in a way that may not have been possible under face to face arrangements.

With the use of the Medical Mavericks Academy and NHS Careers we have been able to bring health careers into the classrooms with an amazing array of interviews with real health professionals, videos of them in action, tasks, assignments and quizzes.

Understanding what a job entails will help students discover careers and make decisions about whether or not that role is right for them in the future.

Mrs Holland - Careers and Aspirations Coordinator

NHS



GCSE Battlefields Trip - October 2022

I am absolutely delighted to be planning our next First World War Battlefields trip to Belgium & France between Friday 21st and Monday 24th October 2022. This coincides with the autumn half term break. The Battlefields Trip usually takes place every other year and therefore we would have been going in 2021, but current events have somewhat scuppered our plans. Fortunately, schools have been given permission to organise trips abroad from September onwards.

Those who sign up will gain a first hand experience of the region where most of the fighting took place including the conditions in the Trenches. They will be able to visit a number of museums and sites dedicated to the memory of the soldiers who lost their lives including a number of war cemeteries and participation in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate at Ypres. We would also like to provide individuals the opportunity to investigate their own family history where appropriate.

This visit has been planned to enhance the Year 9 & 10 History courses. Specifically the First World War unit for the GCSE History syllabus, which makes up 25% of the final mark. Initially we are giving priority to those currently in Year 9 who have chosen to study GCSE History next year but in September we will be opening this up to those students who are intending choosing History as one of their options and therefore will be in Year 10 in October 2022. Keep an eye out for information.

Mr Jessop & Mrs Sparey - Humanities Department

Our peripatetic instrumental and singing teachers have been allowed back into college and students have been able to enjoy music tuition once again!

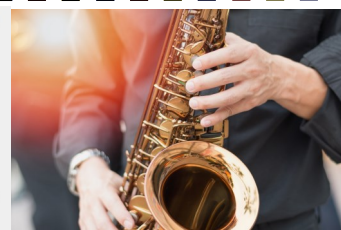
If your child is interested in taking music lessons from September, the contact information for our peripatetic teachers can be found on the college website:

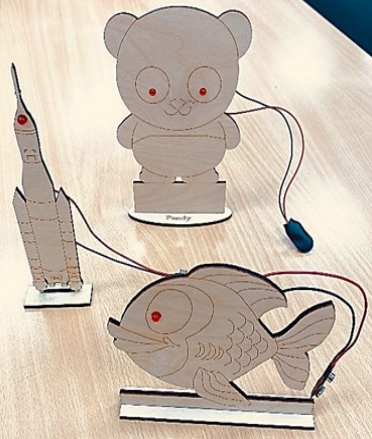
<https://www.blessededward.co.uk/musical-instrument-singing-lessons/>

Year 8 have finally been able to enjoy singing in their music lessons albeit socially distanced and often outside. It is surprising how the power of singing can improve wellbeing and help develop a sense of belonging and connection!

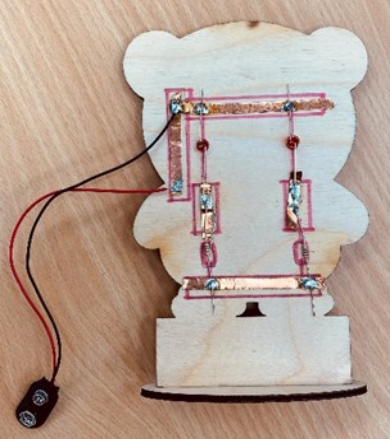
Our Year 9 students have taken advantage of the online learning song writing topic that was introduced during lockdown and have recorded their final work in class. They have produced some incredible songs which will stand them in good stead for those going on to study music at GCSE.

Mrs Thomas & Mr Bryant - Joint Heads of Department for Music





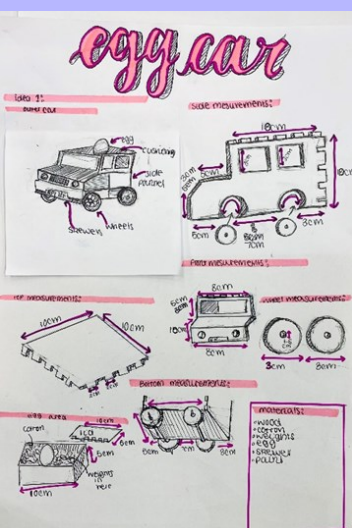
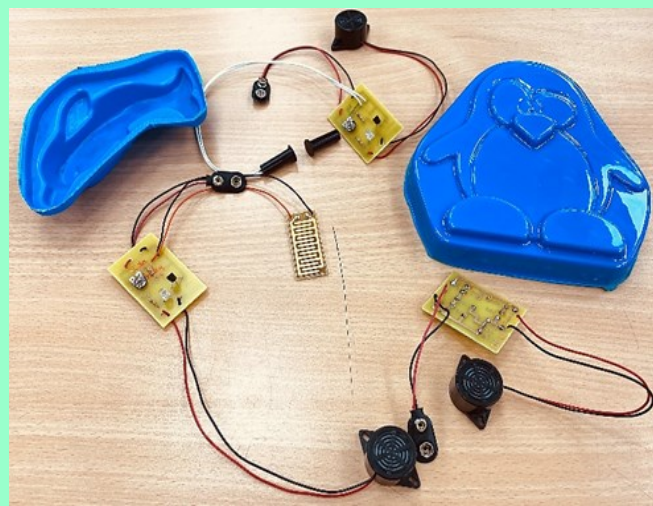
Year 7 students have been creating designs exploring a variety of materials and developing a variety of practical skills. Here are a selection of laser cut CAD – CAM promotional gifts involving a hand-built electronic system to make the products stand out.



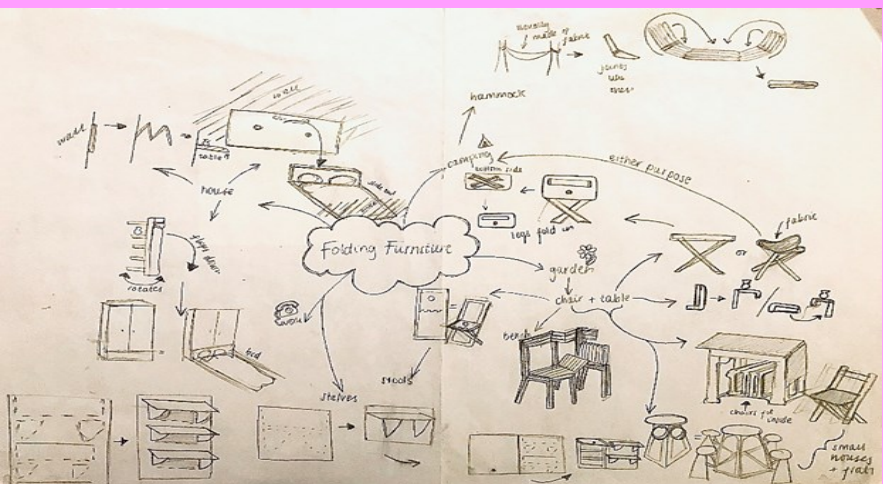
Other Year 7 students have been developing their practical skills to create Ali-Mals – based on folded nets of animals that can be cold formed and bent into 3D aluminium animal structures. This is a selection from D&T RM Yr7.



Year 8 students in Systems & Control have been creating transistor sensing circuits using a variety of sensors, including LDRs to sense either light or darkness, moisture sensors to sense dryness or moisture, magnetic proximity sensors used to sense the presence or absence of a magnet, ideal for security alarms.



Year 9 D&T students have been creating a mini battery or potential energy powered, mechanical racer to compete in an egg race challenge.



Year 10 Design & Technology students have just started work on this years Non-Examined Assessment tasks and are currently analysing the contexts and generating their first ideas.

Mr Hewitt - Head of Design & Technology

Junior Maths Challenge – A record entry!

A record 166 students from Years 7 & 8 took part in this year's Junior Maths Challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust. This is a prestigious competition recognised across the UK and beyond as an opportunity for good young mathematicians to shine.

Best in School this year were Nicole and Josiah from Year 8, and Best in Year 7 were Asha and Jack. All four won Silver certificates, which is a great achievement.

Also winning Silver certificates were Harry from Year 7 and Giulia, Alan and Casey from Year 8.

Bronze certificate winners were Akhil, James, Tony, Euan, Jude, Jakub, Toby and Noah from Year 7. Jack, Charles, Alessia, Alex, Martha, Lubna, Ethan, Aeryn, Radoslaw and Kuba from Year 8.

Everyone who entered won a certificate of participation, which is recognition of being a part of this excellent annual competition.

Many congratulations to all the certificate winners.

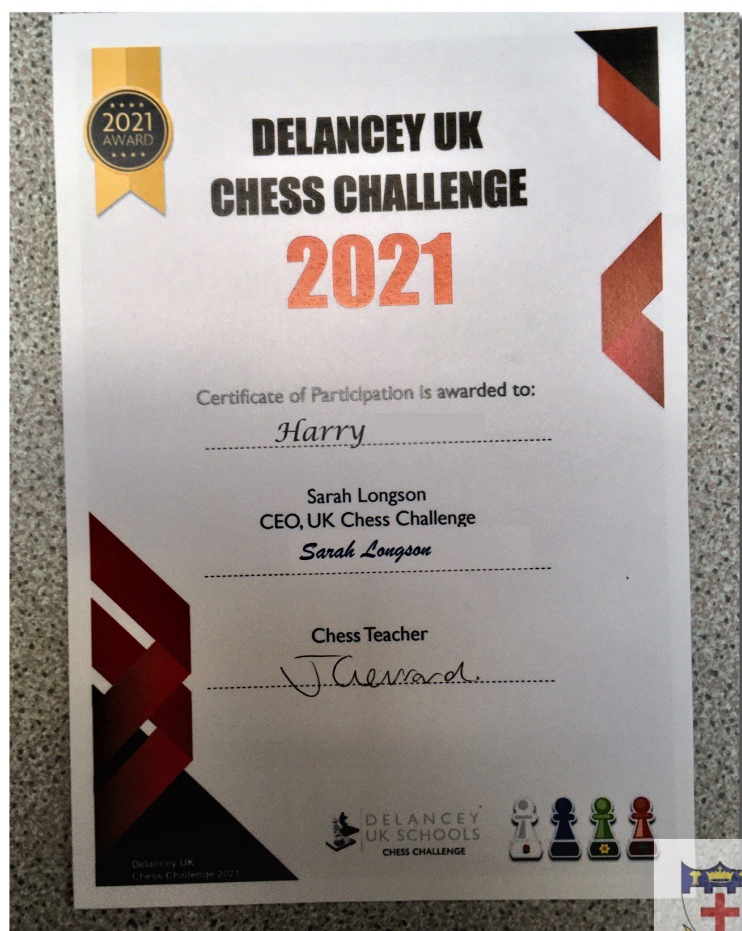
Mr Ellis - Maths Teacher



Chess Club

Chess club has been up and running online since December and we have lots of students in all year groups taking part in school tournaments each week. A special well done to the two students in Year 9 who participated in the national UK Chess Challenge last month. Competition was tough and it was a long haul of concentration through six rounds of 30 minutes each.

Mrs Gerrard - Maths Teacher



Sports

On 27th May our Year 8's used their super leadership skills hosting Our Lady's Year 5 students for an Orienteering competition! The winning team were back in just 17 minutes in the team challenge!!! A great day was had by them all.
Miss Ingram - School Sports Coordinator



Thank you to our Year's 9 & 10 girls who did a great job teaching Our Lady Queen of Peace students some Street Dance routines ready to perform in their assembly!



Following on from 6 weeks of coaching from the Worcester Warriors in which Cerys Phillips delivered a rugby program to our Year's 8 and Year 9 girls they were then invited to a festival at the Warriors Stadium with Tudor Grange. The Year 9 girls had a great day gaining more knowledge and developing their rugby skills. What a fantastic experience with a great bunch of girls!



On the 27th May we also hosted another class from Our Lady Queen of Peace in the Year 3 Summer festival. The leaders helped them to develop their javelin, long jump and triple jump techniques and finished with some track races. Then they had a go at improving their rounders skills which ended with a game. A great day, tired but excellent leaders!

Miss Ingram - School Sports Coordinator

