

# NUNNERY NEWS



December 2017

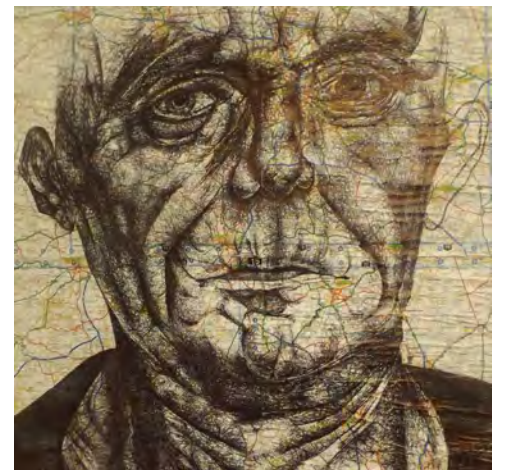
Issue 14

[www.nunnerywood.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.nunnerywood.worcs.sch.uk)

@NunneryWood



## Prestigious Artsmark Award for Nunnery Wood!



THE school is thrilled to have received a prestigious Platinum Artsmark Award. Artsmark is Arts Council England's award for schools that champion the arts and strive for excellence. It celebrates schools that embrace the arts across the curriculum, bringing them to life for children and young people. Platinum Artsmark status is the highest level of recognition given for arts provision by Arts Council England. Currently 1566 schools across the country hold Artsmark status, of that only 45 hold platinum Artsmark status. Within Worcestershire only 3 schools hold platinum Artsmark status and Nunnery Wood High is the only secondary school within Worcestershire to hold it.

In order to become an Artsmark school, Nunnery Wood had to develop their arts and culture provision to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school. The Artsmark panel commended the school's very clear focus

on development.

As an Artsmark school, we have gained access to exceptional networks and resources from some of the most treasured cultural organisations in the country, which helped to strengthen and deliver their arts provision. Through Artsmark, the school will continue to incorporate art and culture into every pupil's life, learning and knowledge and understanding, helping them to build skills, resilience, confidence and character.

Mr Powell said, "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Platinum level Award. We are committed to delivering a high quality art and cultural education, despite the pressures that Government performance measures create. Creativity and expression need to stay at the heart of all schools."

Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England said, "We would like to congratulate Nunnery Wood High School on their Artsmark

Award. As an Artsmark school, Nunnery Wood High exemplifies how the Award can help schools to achieve a broad, balanced curriculum, ensuring that each of its pupils is given the opportunity to explore and build a love of the arts that will remain with them as they go through adult life".

Mr Steward, Head of Arts said, "We had previously been working at Gold level for a few years and it's fantastic to now be one of the few schools in the country recognised to be meeting the highest standard of arts provision. Although this accolade is a huge honour, it's important to note the award isn't just acknowledgement of the fantastic work that the arts teachers at Nunnery provide but also for the dedication, commitment and work ethic of the incredible student artists who attend. We intend to build on this further with the completion of our brand new £1.4 million Art department refurbishment which will reinvigorate the area and provide a brand new gallery space to display students

work in a professional environment.

Artsmark has been created to help unlock the potential of children and young people, to develop their character and talent, and to increase their knowledge and understanding. In short, Artsmark has been created: to bring the arts and culture to life in every classroom. Awarded by the Arts Council England, Artsmark is designed by schools for schools to help them deliver high quality art and cultural education.

Across the country Artsmark is rewarding more and more schools for championing the arts and culture. Artsmark schools gain access to exceptional resources as well as networks of the country's most treasured cultural organisations, helping them develop and strengthen their art provision.





## Contact

Want to share your opinions or get involved with the paper?

### Email

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## Message from the team

Alex Scoby  
**YEAR 11**

Alex is a senior prefect at Nunnery Wood and leads the student newspaper prefect team. Alex, along with Head Boy Darian Murray-Griffiths and prefects Lauren Roberts and Lottie Hammond write and film for the video version of Nunnery News that is on our YouTube channel. Alex has a particular interest in politics and has secured interviews with MP Robin Walker and Joy Squires, Labour candidate in this edition.

James Thatcher  
**YEAR 9**

James has been with the Nunnery news since it and he began in 2015. He writes extensively and has taken on a more senior role over the months. He leads the other students on Tuesday at newspaper club and is a vital part of the newspaper team. James reports on everything and anything and is never seen without his notebook to hand!

## A message from Miss Speechley...

As always, the newspaper team has worked exceptionally hard this term. The team is going from strength to strength with new members joining all of the time. Many students are unable to make it to newspaper club on Tuesdays and so opt to write articles in their own time to be published. Every week journalists are

# Headteacher Mr Powell “A year of success at Nunnery”



### A mark of excellence in the Arts

Gaining Artsmark Platinum is a huge boost to the school's superb arts departments: art, drama, dance and music. The Artsmark awards recognise schools that offer superb opportunities in the arts, both in and outside the classroom. Around 1500 schools have some form of award but only 46 in the entire country have achieved the Platinum award – the highest award possible. The application process and assessment criteria are very tough; schools must offer a full range of art subjects and students must make excellent progress in them. Nunnery, for example, is rare in that the Art department offers a wide range of “endorsements” – fine art, textiles and photography. In addition, to gain platinum, the school must have a thriving art enrichment programme, great teaching and support arts in the community. Our superb theatre and other facilities helped us too.

There is enormous pressure, through budgets and performance tables, to reduce the amount of art taught in schools. We are fighting that pressure by offering more options, for example, so that students are able to develop their talents whatever they may be. With a new art block being built this year, we are looking forward to the arts growing further, and many more students developing a passion for creativity that will last a lifetime.

Congratulations to the Art Team and to all students, past and present, who have contributed their talents and time.

### A new phase for Science

The new Science area is reaching completion and will add a fantastic new dimension to the school. Alongside two more state-of-the-art teaching rooms, there has been restructuring of corridors to create more space, including a

central forum. Extensive outside seating and table tennis tables will be added to create a completely new social areas for students. This development is part of a 2 year programme to create new Science and Arts blocks and to improve space and flow around the site. I will update you on other exciting developments as they are completed.

### A great term

It has been another excellent term at Nunnery with students showing their usual high standards in hard work, uniform and behaviour. We thank them for what they bring to the school as individuals.

Here's to a happy, peaceful Christmas.

## School Parliament Gets to Work!

James Thatcher  
**YEAR 9**

THIS year's new school parliament has had its first meeting and there have been several new changes to how things are organised. Instead of the parliament as a whole deciding how to solve different issues around the school there are several groups and the school parliament has been divided up into sub groups to tackle each issue in more detail. These groups have been decided

as people have put their names down into the sections that they feel strongly about. The sections include charity, justice, arts and culture and environment and it is put in this structure so that each area of the school can be looked at and we can see how to improve it. This is a great new scheme to try and tackle different issues in the school.

The school parliament is made up of 2 students from each form in each year group. These

students are elected by their peers. They then represent their form and year group at meetings and are a way for the student voice to be heard. The senior prefects and head boy and head girl chair the meetings, which are overseen by Mr Steward.

student reporters and photographers for their hard work and a thank you to Miss Robinson for her support of students and excellent proof reading skills; and to Mr Hancock for the actual production of the paper, which is a very big job! Mrs Van Der Kleijn has also been great help in sniffing out stories to point the journalist to!

A special thank you to James Thatcher for keeping control of the newsroom in the absence of me or Miss Robinson when we have needed to be in three places at once!

# Attendance Message

AS the autumn term comes to an end and Christmas approaches, the dreaded bugs and viruses start to take their toll. We want to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and students for battling through and maintaining excellent attendance figures across the school. We are proud to report that the attendance of students at Nunnery Wood is above the national average and this is one factor that makes Nunnery Wood such a successful school. For our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

At Nunnery Wood we have a team of Student Support Managers who take responsibility for ensuring good student attendance. To enable them to safeguard our students and ensure that they get the best opportunities from their education we ask that all parents take note of the

following information.  
In response to parental queries, we wanted to clarify some issues around attendance.

If your child is absent from school:  
Contact the attendance line before 8:30 a.m. for every day that your child is absent from school.

- Send a note in on the first day back with an explanation of the absence

If your child is absent we will:

- Check our attendance line and log the reason for absence.
- Telephone or text you if we have not heard from you.
- In some cases, we may visit your home if we are unable to establish contact. This is a safeguarding measure.

As a school we are required to report detailed figures about attendance to the Department for

Education. We are required to report how much of the absence from school is authorised and how much is unauthorised.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness, medical/dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable causes.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to The Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings.

The law allows schools to authorise other absences only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. the death of a close relative. Most other absences, including holidays, have to be recorded as unauthorised.

As a school we strive to take every measure to ensure the best attendance for all of our students. If your child is experiencing difficulties with attendance then please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team.

Again, thank you to all parents and carers for your support this term. Thank you to our students for being so resilient, we know it is not always easy during the winter months. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



## Goodbye and Good Luck!



**Mrs Van-Der-kleijn**

After 5 years, I am now moving on to work in a marketing role at another school.

I can honestly say that my work here has been varied and interesting. I started here as a part-time Food Technician, which then gradually evolved, until I had eventually taken on 3 different roles!

The best part about having the different roles is that it has enabled me to get to know so many more people throughout the school, and I would like to thank you all for your kindness, laughter and support along the way.  
I feel proud to have worked for a great school with such hard working and dedicated staff and students.

I would like to wish everyone the best for the future.

## The Wait is Over!

Markus Telger  
**YEAR 7**

AFTER many months of planning and disruption, the brand new science block is finally ready to use! This new science block was finished, after 5 months of work, on the 1st of December.

There will be two new specialist science rooms for students. Also, there is a new outdoor science area for teaching outside and improved access to SC10 and SC11. At break and lunch will be a new break foyer for students to have a break outside and easier access to the English block.

The building of this new state of the art facility will improve the access science and improve the flow of the corridors. It will also provide the very latest facilities for students to participate in science lessons. This is part of the expansion plan for the students that is taking place across the school site in several stages.

This cost £750,000 and is part of a £2,250,000 project across the school that will benefit all students and staff and help to ensure that the school continues to provide the best education in the best facilities.

## Head Boy & Girl

Darian Murray-Griffiths  
**Head Boy**



THIS term has been very busy for everyone. Year 11s have had mock exams and so much has been going on in the run up to Christmas. We have had shows and performances, trips and visits and all whilst carrying on with lessons. The prefects have been able to make changes and are driving the student voice forward. We are looking forward to next term when we can continue with our charity work and more changes from the student parliament. I have enjoyed representing the students as Head Boy this term and am always available to listen to your ideas and help out wherever I can.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy a restful break and we look forward to seeing every one back in the new year.



Grace Moseley  
**Head Girl**



THIS term we've had many successes and challenges. Something, both Darian and I wanted to achieve was to have suggestion boxes however, we had discovered that previously they haven't been successful so alternatively we have created an online "suggestion box" that can be accessed through the portal. This is a big achievement for us as it took a lot of time and we found it challenging at first to think of an alternative for a physical suggestion box. We've also introduced the salad bar in the canteen, hopefully this will meet the wants and needs of everyone including all the vegans, vegetarians and will give more options to people who eat Halāl meat. This term Darian and I have visited both St Richards Hospice and New Hope and have been extremely impressed with all the excellent work being done and are supporting them fully, we plan to do some more volunteering there. I fully encourage everyone to get involved, if you need any information about it you can speak to me or Mrs Miller. Additionally we've successfully held our first parliament meeting, introducing the new set out for parliament is exciting and we are confident that it will be productive and efficient.

Congratulations to all the Year 11s for making it through the 1st set of mocks, enjoy a break over Christmas. If you love the snow as much as I do I'm sure you're as excited to know that there's supposed to be a lot of it ... yayy! Have an amazing Christmas and new year.



## Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Binnnersly who has given birth to a wonderful baby girl called Ava. She arrived safely on 9th October at 3.17 pm weighing 8lbs 5oz mother and baby are doing very well Mrs Binnnersley and Ava will be in school soon to say hello to everyone.





# Year 7 Running

Markus Telger  
YEAR 7

MARKUS is a keen runner and likes to run for local charities. He told us all about his latest triumph!

“ON the 31st October, when most children are out trick or treating, I decided to enter my first Dirt Run in the Dark to support our School’s Charity, St Richards Hospice.

The race was a 5k run through the gardens and grounds of Hanbury Hall. The race started at 7.30pm, so by then it was very dark and very cold but luckily it was not too wet. The rules were we had to wear a head torch, and that’s all!

Some adult wore fancy dress, but I decided not to as I was worried about tripping up! There were a few tough hills to master and lots of ghosts, pumpkins and spider webs to run through, but I really enjoyed my first ever run in the dark.

At the end I was delighted to complete the race in a good time of 33mins, and did not fall over once - this to me is a huge achievement! My medal was waiting for me at the end as well as a toffee apple, a well deserved treat.

Thanks to my mum who encouraged me and ran with me.  
My next challenge for St Richards Hospice will be the Yuletide Jog on the 3rd Dec. Come dressed up as santa if you like and complete the 5k walk, jog, trot or run at the Valley in Eve-sham. To enter just log on to [www.strichards.org.uk/events-challenge](http://www.strichards.org.uk/events-challenge)

# Ho Ho Ho!

Markus Telger  
YEAR 7

ON a very wet, damp and drizzly December morning, staff, students and parents came out in force to support St Richards Hospice. The annual even raises funds for the Hospice, which is the schools' nominated charity. The runners were all encouraged to dress 'festively'.

Mrs Telger, who organised the school team said, 'As always, the Nunnery team spirit shone through. It was a delight to see the students and parents join in. For some it was their very first event'.



# Judo Success

YEAR 7 judo player, James Harrison, won a British Minors Championships gold medal when he competed at the Welsh National Sports Centre, Cardiff.

James, who trains at both the Worcester club and at Samurai in Kidderminster, won each of the four contests that he entered comfortably.

He started with a maximum-point throw against a Northern Ireland player then followed up



with a throw into a hold in his second contest against a Surrey opponent. In the semi-finals, he launched a player from the north of England into the air for maximum points.

James made it to the final against a London player who scored five times without conceding to take the gold.

# Children in Need

Jacob Preece  
YEAR 7



ON THE 17th of November, students took part in a non uniform day to support BBC Children in Need.

BBC Children in need helps children and young people in the UK who are disadvantaged. They help small and large groups to give children opportunities.

They currently support 2,400 projects all across the UK. The projects help children facing a range of disadvantages for example poverty and deprivation; children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect or disabled young people. BBC Children in Need programmes are open all year round for applications. They give small grants awards four times a year and main grants three times a year.

All students and staff paid £1.00 to wear non uniform. Mrs Miller, who organised the event, said, “The students all donated to the day and raised a significant amount of money.”

# Raising Money

The remainder comes from the NHS.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with the patients and their families. They found the hospice to be more like a hotel than anything that resembled a hospital. They learned that people often have their pets to visit and that there are lots of facilities such as a restaurant and hairdressers on site.

Jayne Sergeant also came in to school and delivered a very informative but sensitive assembly to Year 11 this half term to raise awareness of the wide range of support they offer to people in our community.

In addition to St Richards, students have also selected New Hope Children’s Charity to support this year. New Hope is a charity that supports children who have complex disabilities and their families. They help all children to enjoy a normal life within the community appropriate to their age. They offer a wide range of activities to the children including sports and crafts. They find ways to allow all children to participate and have fun. Students from Nunnery Wood will be finding various ways to help raise vital funds over the school year.



STUDENTS from Year 11 recently visited St Richards Hospice in Worcester as it is one of our chosen charities that the school supports. Head Girl Grace Moseley and Head Boy Darian Murray, along with Martyna Lotycz and Elizabeth Moyden went to the hospice where they met Jayne Sergeant, their Community Fundraiser who gave them a guided tour of the facilities. The students had the opportunity to learn more about the vital work of the hospice and how fundraising is very important to it. Each year St Richards gives free care and support to around 3,000 patients, loved ones and the bereaved, helping them towards the best quality of life possible.

St Richard’s is an independent registered charity, it costs £8.4m a year to run all their services, three quarters of that income comes from public donations, this includes gifts in Wills, one off or regular donations, fundraising events and personal challenges, trading, legacies and grants from trusts and business sponsorship.



# Rethinking Remembrance

STUDENTS from all year groups spent a week of reflection and discussion, by taking the Royal British Legion's theme of asking the nation to 'Rethink Remembrance'.

Throughout the week of 4th-11th November, certain lessons, form tutor times and assemblies explored the various aspects of remembrance and the significance of wearing a poppy, encouraging discussions and debates across the curriculum.

A fantastic display; which was put together by the history and art departments was set up in the main school foyer, and a group of Year 10

student volunteers have been sharing a rota system to sell poppies leading up to and including this week throughout the school. The volunteer students said, "We think it's important to sell poppies to support all families affected by war."

The Royal British Legion's website shows numerous stories of veterans from all wars and their families in order to encourage people to rethink what remembrance is. They have been released to challenge the commonly held view that the poppy and Remembrance are associated only with the First and Second World Wars and elderly veterans. There is a wealth of information on how the money raised by the Royal

British Legion is used in a variety of projects to help today.

It continues to say that whilst it is important these conflicts and those who served in them will always be remembered, the Legion is urging the public to recognise the service and sacrifice made across all generations of the British Armed Forces including the most recent conflicts.

Miss Speechley, "Remembrance is an important time of year in school. It allows students to understand the symbolism of the poppy and how Remembrance has changed since it began

following World War One. This year we have taken the Royal British Legion's theme of 'Rethinking Remembrance'. It provides us with an opportunity to explore a range of issues across the curriculum that are relevant and topical to our students. In history lessons, all Key Stage Three students looked at the role that the Worcestershire Regiment played at Ghulevult in World War One and how it is remembered in Worcester. Tutor times for all year groups were set aside to look at the wider meaning of remembrance. The school held a 2 minute silence on 10th November as remembrance fell at the weekend".

## Remembrance

Louis Foreman  
YEAR 7

REMEMBRANCE day is seriously important to myself. My grandfather served in the Royal Navy during the Korean War; he was one of the lucky ones, one of the ones that survived. Remembrance day is about both remembering those who have died in service of our nation and raising money to help those who have been injured mentally and physically. The history of Remembrance day is rooted in the end of the Great War (WW1). The war officially ended at 11:00am on November 11th 1918, so this became the date and time at which we hold a two-minute silence, to remember and reflect. I propose today, to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, we should do more to help our troops, through fundraising or petitioning the government to do more to fund more assistance.

Markus Telger  
YEAR 7

AS A scout, the Remembrance Service is one of the most important services which we attend. I feel so proud to represent my Scout group in Crowle every year. We are only a small group, but to represent the Scouts is very important to me. Standing around the Cenotaph listening to the Last Post being played is a memorable feeling. After my service in Crowle, I went shopping. I was still in my uniform. I was stopped by several elderly people and thanked for looking smart and willing to give up my Sunday to remember the dead. I said I was more than happy to take part and look forward to formal occasions wearing my uniform.



## Historians Learn Impact of War on Local People

YEAR 8 history students visited The Hive in Worcester where they learned more about World War One in preparation for the upcoming trip to the Battlefields and Memorials of the Western Front in France and Belgium. The students began by examining exhibits about children in the local area during war time. They learned how school children were given time off school to pick fruits in order to support the war effort and how all aspects of their daily lives were interrupted by war. This included being unable to have toys that they may have had before, such as Steiff Bears which were imported from Germany. They found out about the illnesses and diseases that children faced at that time as well as what school was like during wartime. The students then participated in an activity in

which they examined a series of letters written by local soldiers during the war. They spoke of different things and had different perceptions of war. One soldier claimed that being shot was a minor incident! The students thought that may have been so that his mother was not alarmed or worried. Most of the letters were from soldiers and were sent home, very few that were sent to the soldiers would have survived as the soldiers would have been frequently on the move with nowhere safe to store personal items.





# Christmas Card Competition Entries

STUDENTS from all year groups were invited to get creative and Christmassy by entering a competition to design and produce a school Christmas card. The winning designs are dis-

played in the carol concert programme and are made into real cards. Ms Start, who organised the competition said, "It has been great to see some fantastic designs submitted for the art

department's Christmas Card competition. We have had some excellent entries ranging in a variety of materials, from; collage, pop-up, ink, and texture include lots of glitter of course to

get us in the Christmas mood!"  
Here is a selection of the entries.



Above - Alex Turner , Y7 \ Below - Bethany Rock, Y8



Above - Daisy Regan, Y7 \ Bottom Left - Ryan Parkins, Y7



Top Right - Jemima Thorp, Y8 \ Bottom Left - Agnas Linas, Y9  
\ Bottom Right - Sophia Astley, Y7







Top Left - Zoe Littlewood, Y9 \ \ Top Right - Hannah Rose, Y10



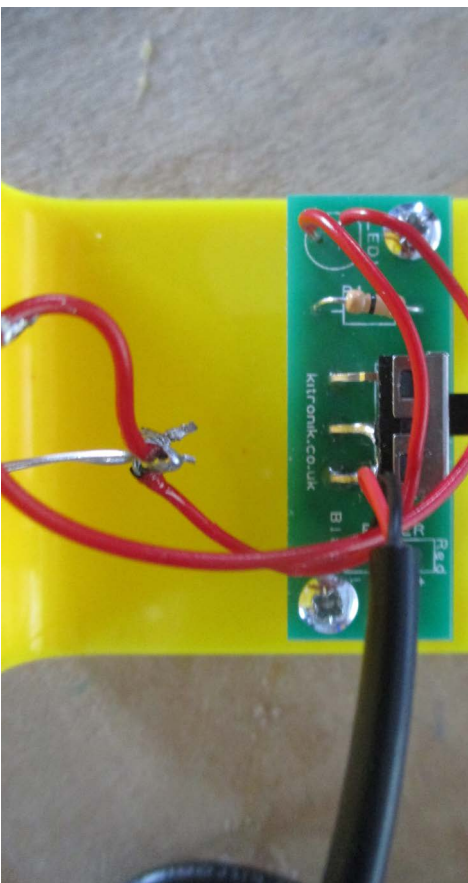
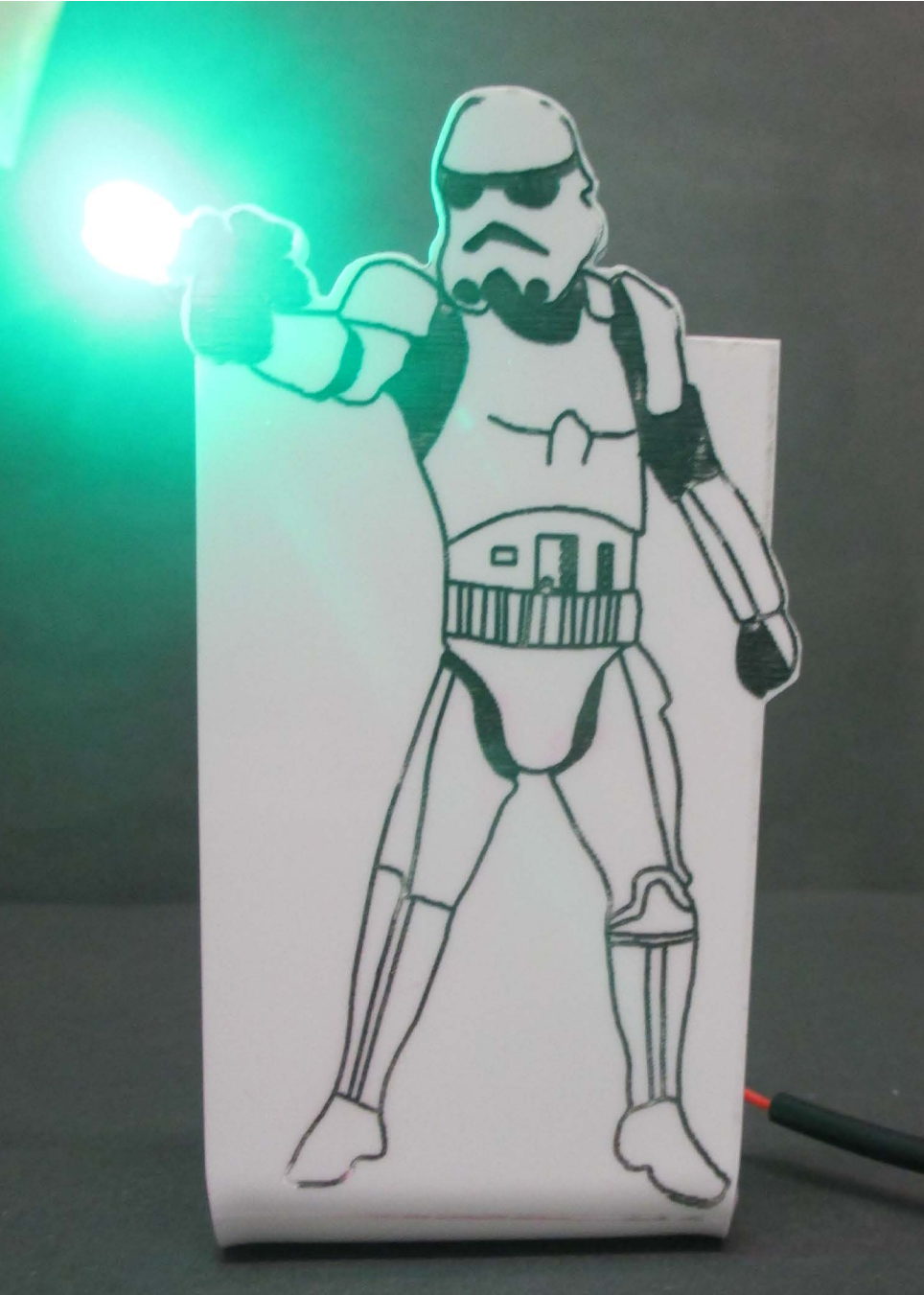
Top Left - Eesha Ilyas, Y8 \ \ Top Right - Ella Ford, Y9 \ \ Below - Joel Rickman, Y8



Above - Ellen Woodfield, Y8 \ \ Below - Hannah Dutson, Y8



# DESIGNER of the month





# Library Club Cake Sale

FOR one day only students were allowed to eat cake in the Library!

Following on from previous years successful fundraising events, Library Club decided to hold another cake sale to raise money for the RNIB; Royal National Institute for Blind people.

Did you know that £70 provides talking books for a whole year to a blind reader?

We were overwhelmed with donations of cakes and biscuits from Library Club members and also had the support of a couple of local super-markets who generously donated a fantastic range of cakes for us to sell. Library Club members also designed posters and price tags, made bunting and with a little help to set up on the day, ran the whole sale themselves. A fantastic achievement....

Students buying cakes were given the opportunity to try and understand what it would be like to see the world differently by donning special pairs of glasses that impaired their vision. They also used to use braille cards and decipher a special message.

Library Club raised £124.67 which is absolutely fantastic!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with and supported this event.



# Worcester Teen Book Award

James Thatcher  
YEAR 9

ON THE 15th of November Library Club went speed dating, with books of course! This process has happened every year and it is preparation for the Worcestershire Teen Book Award. This is a very prestigious award in the county for all schools but it is also a chance to enjoy books and to love reading. 22 people took part to speed read 29 books and overall to select the top 5 books. These results will be mixed in with other schools results to create a shortlist of books for the title.

The overall shortlist of 6 books will be announced on the 6th December but the shortlist made up of library club's overall decision was made up of 5 brilliant books which were 'Charlotte Says', 'All the things that could go wrong', 'I have no secrets', 'The Ethen I was before' and 'the Island at the end of everything'.

This year's ceremony, on the 20th March, should be as good as ever with the hotly contested interschool quiz taking place. This year's author guest will be adventure author Chris Bradford who has written popular book's including 'Young Samurai', 'Ninja: Death Touch' and 'Bullet Catcher'. It should be a great event for everyone.

# Love cooking?

GCSE food technology students have been working hard this term. They have actioned and completed their first key piece of controlled assessment and they are now in preparation for the second, much weightier, controlled assessment task.

At the end of November, they embraced the opportunity to practice some skills in advance of the actual assessment with impressive results.



# Pumpkin Carving!



# BTEC Children's Play, Learning & Development

AS PART of the BTEC course, Year 10 students need to observe children 0 – 8 years of age. Roman came into our lessons, with his Mum, to demonstrate the developmental milestones of a 5 month child.

The students had prepared an observation sheet and asked a range of very sensible and sensitive questions. Roman behaved himself impeccably and has promised to return again when he is a little older to show us how he has developed.





# Nunnery Goes Stateside

Millie Yeomans & Katie Moule  
YEAR 9

STUDENTS from Years 9 – 11 were lucky enough to travel across the Atlantic for a history-based trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington. 21 students took part in the trip, which was for 6 days over half term in October. Whilst on the trip, they visited a range of different places in each city. In New York, the students and the teachers visited iconic places and

sights that included the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Centre, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 911 Memorial, United Nations Building, Grand Central Station, Central Park, Times Square and obviously shopping! The group ate at Bubbu Gump and Planet Hollywood restaurants. Students were overwhelmed by the size of the buildings and the business of the city. It really is the city that never sleeps! In Philadelphia, they visited Liberty Bell, which is always rung when a significant event hap-

pens in America and recreated the scene from Rocky on the museum steps! In Washington, they visited The White House, The Pentagon, The Supreme Court, The Monument, and a lot of museums which were all amazing. They included everything from dinosaurs to space travel and technology. The group was able to stand in the exact place where Martin Luther King gave his ‘I have a Dream’ speech. They also visited the memorials to conflicts including Korea, Vietnam and World War Two.

Mr Rowley, who organised the trip said, “The trip was an amazing experience for all of the students, they learned a lot and had great fun too. We were all pretty tired by the end of it as we walked a lot and were busy all day every day, but it was worth it for this trip of a lifetime”. Miss Speechley added, “The students were all amazing, I am sure they will remember this trip forever. I loved the trip too and hope we can go again in the future!”.



# Artists Explore Museums

OVER half the Nunnery Wood High School GCSE Art and Photography students visited Pitt Rivers Museum and The Natural History Museum Oxford on 12th October. Pitt Rivers museum is a huge collection of items from around the world, ranging from a totem pole to children’s jewellery. This is the only museum in the world that displays their items in geographical or cultural areas. At the Pitt Rivers

Museum they are arranged according to type: musical instruments, weapons, masks, textiles, jewellery, and tools are all displayed to show how the same problems have been solved at different times by different peoples. The Natural History Museum Oxford is organised into Life Collections, Earth Collections, and Archival Collections. The Zoological Collections comprise more than 250,000 specimens, including some 1,000 type specimens. Many extinct and endangered species are represented, including the most complete remains of a dodo in the world. Notable collections include those of Thomas Bell, William Burchell, and Charles Darwin. The collections in both museums allowed students to view first hand a range of collections relevant to their GCSE coursework. Art and Design Teacher Mrs Ball said, “The students were fantastic throughout the day and have said how inspiring the collections were. The photographs they have taken will be used in their coursework and ideas developed from these.”





## Year 7s - One Term Later

Max Worker-Moore  
YEAR 7

THIS autumn term I went around getting some year 7s to tell me how they are getting on this is what Grace Webb said "I feel I'm settling in very nicely and all my teachers are lovely and I was really surprised by how easy the homework is as it is much easier as I thought." Her friend Jess Rich said "I was worried about making new friends but I've made lots of new friends and I have found it easier to make my way around school so I'm not late for any of my classes and I've also been given the chance to join lots of clubs like; netball for girls, the library club and more. I feel the clubs here are so much more fun than the clubs back at my primary school and I recommended all the clubs I've been to everyone." But it's not just the students who have an opinion on the year 7s I also got some teachers to tell me what they think about the new students they teach. Mr Boniface said "The new year 7s are a pleasure to teach, as I have more than one class, and I

think there settling in really well and they look and feel interested and eager to learn about the importance in my subject computing." It wasn't just Mr Boniface who I spoke to I also spoke to 2 English teachers Mrs Price and Mrs Kurkus. This is what Mrs Price said "I have a lovely new form who I feel are settling in really well now that there half a term into their experience at nunnery wood and I can't wait to see what they will bring to the table later on in nunnery".



## Talented Student

IN EACH edition we meet up with a student who has a particular skill or talent.

This time we chatted to Year 10 student Natasha Dobson who is a talented swimmer, who regularly competes in competitions.

### How long have you been swimming?

I have been swimming since I was about 4 years old when I first started lessons just to learn to swim.

### How often do you now swim?

I now swim about 8 times each week, it is a busy schedule.



### What level do you compete at?

I have recently competed in the Midlands Championships and County Championships. I will be going to the Regional Championships in May.

### What would you say to other people who are considering taking up swimming?

It is really fun! I enjoy making friends, being busy and it is a great way to be fit and healthy. I do have to be really organised to fit my school work in around my training, but I manage to do this. I train at Worcester Swimming Club. They can be contacted directly if you want further information.



## Royal Visitor to Nunnery!

STUDENTS and staff alike were excited to see Sophie, Duchess of Wessex, arrive by helicopter on the school field! The Royal guest was due to open a new facility at Worcestershire Royal Hospital and needed a suitable spot to land! The school field is a large enough space and is close to the hospital. Despite it being a very windy day, the landing was textbook perfect and the guest was able to make a swift exit to get to her appearance on time.



## Ex Student - Freya Jackson



WE LIKE to catch up with our ex-students and see what they are up to. This time, we chatted to Freya Jackson, who left Nunnery Wood in 2015.

I left Nunnery Wood two years ago (in the summer of 2015), and I am currently at the University of Sheffield studying history and politics. I have carried on hobbies I enjoyed at school, for example I am in the orchestra and History Society; but have also started new things, for example I take Latin and ballroom dance lessons. After I left Nunnery Wood I studied for my A levels at Worcester Sixth Form College. I did maths, geography, early modern history, and government and politics. At my GCSE options I chose to study history, geography, music, French and AS government and politics. My best piece of advice is to pursue something that you enjoy, because it's much easier to do that extra work to get the best grade if you are interested in what you're studying.

## Shakespeare Schools

James Thatcher  
YEAR 9

THIS years' performance of 'As you Like it' was an absolute spectacle to the audience of the Palace Theatre and it was an play that is one to remember for a long time. The performance ran smoothly after a technical and dress rehearsal the same day and was a brilliant performance even though it was a confusing play full of cross dressing and mistaken identities! Duke Senior has been forced into exile from the court by the usurping Duke Frederick. He takes refuge in the Forest of Arden with a band of faithful lords. Rosalind, his daughter, is kept uneasily at court as a companion to her cousin Celia, Frederick's daughter. Orlando de Boys, the youngest son of the late Sir Rowland de Boys, has been kept in poverty by his brother Oliver since his father's death. Orlando decides to wrestle for his fortune at Frederick's court, where he sees Rosalind and they fall in love. The Duke banishes Rosalind, fearing that she is a threat to his rule. Celia, refusing to be parted from her cousin, goes with Rosalind to seek Duke Ferdinand in the Forest. For safety they disguise themselves - Rosalind as the boy Ganymede and Celia as his sister Aliena - and persuade the fool Touchstone to accompany them. On hearing of a plot by his brother to kill him, Orlando also flees to the Forest and takes refuge with the exiled Duke. Posting love

lyrics through the forest, Orlando encounters Rosalind disguised as Ganymede. She challenges his love-sick state and suggests that he should prove the strength of his love by wooing Ganymede as if he were Rosalind. Elsewhere in the Forest love also blossoms: the shepherd Silvius suffers unrequited love for Phoebe, who has fallen for Ganymede, while Touchstone is pursuing the goat-herd Audrey. Oliver, sent into the Forest to hunt down Orlando, has his life saved by his brother, becomes filled with remorse for his past behaviour and falls in love with Aliena. Frustrated by the pain of his love for Rosalind, Orlando is unable to continue wooing Ganymede, so Ganymede promises he will conjure up the real Rosalind and that all the lovers will finally be wed. Ganymede leaves with Aliena and they reappear but as Rosalind and Celia. Rosalind then makes a speech and is married to Orlando. The play ends with singing and dancing in the forest.

The play was also performed in school where it was hugely enjoyed by parents and students.

**Shakespeare**  
Schools Festival



# ARTIST of the week



Above - Adai George, Y7 \ \ Below - Izzi Stevenson



Top Left - Alex Martin, Y8 \ \ Bottom Left - Ella Campbell \ \ Bottom Right - Maddison Muir, Y9





# ARTIST of the week



Top Left - Millie McCormick, Y9 \ Top Right - Sebastian Sidwell, Y10 \ Bottom Right - Georgia Satchwell, Y8



Above - Rihanna O'Toole \ Bottom-Left - Luke Blundell, Y9  
 \ Bottom-Right - Natasha Dobson





# Ho Ho Ho!

THE staff Christmas video will be launched ready for end of term assemblies. Staff and students got festive by dancing along and lip syncing to arguably the best Christmas song ever, in order to raise. laugh and some festive cheer in school. This year students opted for 'I wish it Could be Christmas Everyday' by Wizzard. Some of the teachers took a little bit of persuading to appear in the video, however, they did get into the spirit of it! You can see the video on our school YouTube Channel.



## Christmas Charity Decorations

THE art department has been busy producing Christmas decorations to be sold in aid of St Richard's Hospice and Asthma UK. Students and staff have been working hard over several

weeks to get enough produced to meet the demand. See the art department for further details.



## Creative Christmas Carol

Ghost and ghouls creative writing competition It has been a difficult task deciding the winners and the English department have finally whittled it down to the top stories for each year group as well as an overall winner.

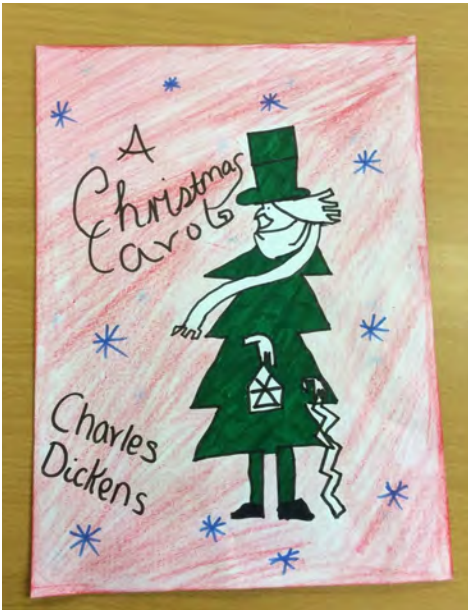
Yr 7 - Markus Telger  
Yr 8 - Ashton Dotti  
Yr 9 - Chloe Embley

Overall Winner - Emily Williams  
'A Christmas Carol' book cover competition: Again we had some lovely entries and have

decided the winners for Year 7 and Year 8.

Yr 7 - Khushi Patel  
Yr 8 - Skye Williams

Well done to all those who entered either of the competitions. We hope you are looking forward to the next one and good luck from the whole English department!



## Christmas Decorations

Louis Foreman  
YEAR 7

FOR this special Christmas issue of the Nunnery News, I have compiled the very best traditions we have in Britain during the festive period.

1. Christmas cards. The first Christmas card was designed by John Horsley and Sir Henry Cole in 1843 to bring business to the Public Records Office, the predecessor to the modern-day Post Office

2. Christmas trees. Although Christmas trees existed in Europe for many years before they



came here, Prince Albert (consort to Queen Victoria) popularised them in the UK after he

## Christmas Carols

Members of the school choir joined in the festivities in order to raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice, when they performed at

put one up in Windsor Castle, in 1841  
3. Holly and ivy. These traditions of British Christmas have been around since pre-Christian times and remain to this day.



4. Figgy pudding. This staple of the holiday season has its roots in the Middle Ages, originally being a wheat-based thick stew. During the Victorian era, it became what it is today with the addition of alcohol, eggs and dried fruit.



5. Mistletoe. Mistletoe was first used by Pagans; early Christians adopted soon after. I hope that this has given you an insight into the history of Christmas traditions. Merry Christmas!



Worcester Victorian Fayre. The students performed to a large audience at a very busy event.





## Farewell to the Class of 2017

FORMER students and their parents were invited back to school for a formal presentation of their GCSE certificates. The evening began with speeches from Mr Powell and their former head of year 11, Mr Roleston that reflected on the achievements and memories of the students over the five years that they were at Nunnery Wood. Their former form tutors and teachers also attended the event to join the celebrations. Students

were formally presented with their official GCSE certificates by the Head Teacher. The formal part of the evening concluded with the premier of the DVD of the leavers' prom, which is now available to all students by logging on to their Portal account.

The students and their parents then enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to catch up on events since they left and share memories of school.

Former student Jacob Alldridge said, "Although it was strange to be back in school, it brought back a lot of memories. The video of the prom was the highlight and it was good to see my old tutor."



## Super 9 Super Award

A SPECIAL award, 'The Super 9' had to be created by school to recognise the exceptional achievements of former students achieving the top new grade 9 GCSEs.



This summer saw the introduction of new 9 to 1 grades in Mathematics and English. Grade 9 is placed 3 grades above the old grade A and is only awarded to students of exceptionally high ability.

Nationally, around 3% of students got these grades. At Nunnery, we were delighted that 8% of our students achieved them. In total, our Year 11s scored 51 grade 9s between Mathematics, English and English Literature.

Incredibly, 6 of our students gained grade 9s in

## Year 7 Music Evening

YEAR students took part in a music evening in October, in which they performed to an audience of friends and family. The evening is an informal opportunity that allows the students to gain confidence in performing. Miss Harper, who organised the event, said, "Our new crop of Year 7s are a really talented bunch. They have already made a fantastic contribution to the singing groups, orchestra, soul band, guitar group, and "band" rehearsals in the practice rooms at lunch time. Many thanks to all parents

and carers who helped make the evening so special and our young performers feel welcomed and supported. We also all enjoyed the squash and biscuits! "

Why not get involved in many of the musical opportunities available? See Miss Harper or any music teacher for further details.



## Sign Language Club

BRITISH Sign Language Club is a new club that has been set up around teaching people sign language. The club has been set up by Year 10 students Hannah ?? and Hollie ?? It is a new opportunity and is very different to French, Spanish and German as hands rather than speech are used to convey your meaning and emotion. The club takes place on Friday lunchtimes in MFL4 and people from any year group are welcome. There are currently about 15 members of the club, but they would very much like more people to join in. Hannah began learning to sign at her local Church group and decided that she would like to pass on her knowledge. Hollie helps with the presentations and delivery of the activities. Hollie told us that, "It is quite easy to learn the basics and it is a way of communicating with all sorts of people, you never know when it might be useful. It could help with

future jobs and careers and is a useful skill to learn. So far we have looked at greetings, names and role plays using these skills. We plan to learn numbers and spellings next."



## Parachuting eggs as Science Club Gets Underway!

Louis Foreman  
**YEAR 7**

STUDENTS have received a torrent of clubs they can join in this half term. Last issue I covered the wonderful sports clubs being run by the PE Department, but this issue I took a look at the academic side of extracurricular activities here at Nunnery. Dr Nickson, who has taught here since the beginning of the year, said he was 'delighted' to be holding this club. I asked two Year 7 students why they had joined the club. Errol Dixon told me, "Science is fun!", while Toby Alexander said, "I joined because I really wanted to do more science." The day I went, attendees were making parachutes for eggs, with a chicken-related techno beat playing from Dr Nickson's computer. The group whose egg survives will win an assortment of highlighters!

Why not go along, see Dr Nickson for further details, everyone is welcome.



## English Clubs

THE English Department has been busy this term organising clubs for the benefit of all students. Don't be shy and come down to the following to take part in these wonderful activities.

**Monday Lunchtime in EN4:** Come to literacy club if you need help with SPAG. You can complete tasks and games to help improve your knowledge and confidence in English.

**Tuesday Lunchtime EN1:** Want a club to help you write books? Well come down to Creative Writing group. A club in writing books and stories, fun challenges and discussing enjoyable ideas and just a wonderful place to make new friends.

**Thursday Lunchtime EN2:** Just for those who are studying for their impending exams for language and literature, come down for guidance and support. KS4 only.

**Friday Lunchtime EN3:** If you want to be transported to another world every Friday lunchtime, come along to film club. New releases are always shown every week, most recently students have had the pleasure of watching 'Beauty and the Beast'.

If you would like any other information, do not hesitate to come and talk to Mrs Hotchen in EN2.



# Politics Matters!

ALEX Scoby, Year 11, caught up with local MP Robin Walker and Joy Squires, Local Councillor and parliamentary candidate for the Labour Party to see what has been affecting Worcester residents recently.



**Europe and Parliament**  
“Sufficient progress” might sound like the kind of thing you might read in a not very enthusiastic school report, but in the last few weeks these words have taken on massive political significance. Sufficient progress was the test that needed to be met to ensure that talks

between the UK and the EU could move on from how we separate to how we can work with each other, support each other on matters like security, and trade with each other in the future. The UK has always been clear that whilst the referendum held in 2016 means that we will be leaving the European Union, it does not mean we are leaving Europe. We remain a European country which will want to work with our neighbours on crucial issues such as our shared environment, advancing science and research, and creating the best opportunities for young people. Getting the talks to the place where “sufficient progress” could be agreed is a major step forward in delivering on this. In my role as a Minister I have been working hard to ensure that Britain gets the right deal as we leave the EU and the arrangements announced last week mean we have secured the rights of over one million British citizens who live elsewhere in the EU as well as more than three million EU citizens who live in this country. We have also agreed to protect the invisible border in Northern Ireland that has played a vital role in the peace process, which during my lifetime has transformed that part of the UK. We have agreed that we will meet our existing financial obligations but we have not agreed to the kind of vast “divorce” payments that some suggested might be needed to move

the talks forward. We will next negotiate to ensure there is a transition period which will provide certainty for business as we move towards a new relationship and the best possible trade deal between the UK and our neighbours, respecting the fact that in future we’ll be outside of the political project of the European Union but still its closest neighbour. I am glad that as we near the end of a busy year, sufficient progress means greater certainty and clarity which in turn should mean good news for jobs and investment.

**Christmas in Worcester**  
It’s been great to see Worcester’s High Street busier than ever in the run up to Christmas and along with a successful Victorian Christmas Fayre and the smart new restaurants and bars in Cathedral Plaza, more people seem to be visiting our city than ever. With our beautiful Cathedral, civil war history and fantastic array of independent shops it is no wonder that Worcester is a draw. On Small Business Saturday at the start of this month I joined the local BID team in visiting a wide range of local shops and cafes to celebrate Worcester’s thriving independent retail sector. With twice the national average proportion of independent shops, Worcester is doing really well in this.

As we near the end of the year, Parliament seems to be busier than ever and whilst much of the country has been enjoying or coping with the snow there have been a series of late night votes on crucial bills - the Finance Bill to cut taxes for ordinary working people and raise more for public services by cracking down on tax avoidance among them. It’s been good to escape after a week of late night votes and get back to wonderful Worcester. With the biggest investment in our hospital in decades announced this year, the biggest road project ever financed by the government in Worcestershire with the dualling of the Carrington Bridge, more investment to cut congestion and pollution in the city centre, record low unemployment and a step forward on fairer funding for our schools, you could say that locally it’s been a story of “sufficient progress” too.



# Universal Credit in Worcester



UNIVERSAL Credit is the new benefits system designed to roll into one payment up to six separate social security benefits. The principle behind Universal Credit is to simplify the benefits system and make it easier to claim the

benefits to which a person is entitled. I support that. But the implementation of Universal Credit to date has caused great hardship for too many claimants, including here in Worcester. The full roll out of Universal Credit hasn’t arrived in Worcester yet, but, since January this year, any single person signing on for unemployment benefit has been transferred to Universal Credit, as have any families whose circumstances have changed. There are already about 2500 people in Worcester signed up for Universal Credit. When the full roll out happens in 2018, that number will rise to over 10,000. Over the past few months I have become increasingly aware of the problems caused by the introduction of Universal Credit in Worcester. Two cases stuck in my mind: The first being a single man who, because of being put on Universal Credit, has had trouble paying his rent; and the second being a family with four young children being forced to go to a foodbank as they, because of Universal Credit’s flaws, could

not afford to buy any. The main issue was with the delay in receiving Universal Credit payments. This usually takes six weeks. It is the reason the single man got into arrears (trouble paying it) with his rent – he simply did not have the money to pay it. In the past, his rent was paid by Housing Benefit straight to his landlord and so he didn’t have to worry about getting it to the landlord. However, under Universal Credit payments to landlords were largely stopped; meaning that the man had to pay his landlord directly and on time. The family had a similar issue and, despite pawning possessions, they still had to go the foodbank. These cases made it abundantly clear to me that the implementation of Universal Credit was flawed. Across the country, I was hearing similar stories. As a councillor, I have a duty to speak against national policies which are having an adverse impact on our community. With this in mind,

I decided to bring a motion to a meeting of Worcester City Council asking the Managing Director to write to the Prime Minister to express councillors’ concerns about the implementation of Universal Credit. Specifically, I asked for a pause in the full roll out of the scheme so that the problems about delayed payments and not paying rent directly to landlords could be ironed out. Following this, I am pleased to report that the very next day the Chancellor announced measures to tackle delayed payments and it was announced that direct payments of rent to landlords would also be introduced with the October 2018 full roll out; a large step in the right direction.



# Governing Body Vacancy

Do you know someone who would make a good school governor?

Perhaps a parent, grandparent, friend or colleague may be interested in joining our Governing Body. It is interesting and rewarding work and the knowledge and experience can benefit other areas of work or interests. At this time, we are looking for someone who is comfort-

able working with budgets to enhance the skills available on the Governing Body, due to the end of the term of office of a long-standing governor. The school employs very capable Business Manager and Finance Manager who manage the budget and spending on an ongoing basis and forecast and plan for the future, alongside the Headteacher. They report to the Resources

Committee and Full Governing Body. The role of Governors is to oversee and ensure that the budget is being spend appropriately for the benefit for the students' education. We do this by asking challenging questions and, where necessary, probing more deeply. There are 4 Full Governing Body meetings a year and usually 4 Resources committee meet-

ings a year. All meetings start at 5.30p.m. in school. If you - or someone you know - would like to find out more, please get in touch with Helen West on h.west@nunnerywood.worcs.sch.uk or 01905 363623.



# Anti Bullying Week

EVERY year Nunnery Wood takes part in a national event to try to prevent bullying. Anti-Bullying Week is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and schools and other organisations across the country take part.

The week in school was set aside to focus on this important topic. Students took part in a range of activities with their form tutor and each form committed to stamp out bullying by signing the ant bullying charter that is now displayed in all form rooms. Mr Steward led assemblies to explain the definitions of bullying and what can be done about it. Students considered the consequences of bullying. The theme of National Anti Bullying week was ‘All Different, All Equal’ and it had the following aims:

- Empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique
- Help children and young people understand

- stand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying
- Encourage parents and carers to work with their school and talk to their children about bullying, difference and equality
  - Enable teachers and other children’s workforce professionals to celebrate what makes us ‘all different, all equal’ and celebrate difference and equality. Encouraging them to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves.

Further details can be found at [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

Year 7 student Max Harris prepared a PowerPoint presentation to use in his form group. Here is a selection of the slides that he made:

### What is bullying?

any behaviour using threat and fear which involves the bull gaining pleasure from a victim's pain, fear or humiliation is called bullying or abuse. Bullying can be shown in many ways there are 4 main types of abuse: Emotional abuse, physical abuse, cyber abuse and verbal abuse. There are also other abuse's like sexual abuse and social abuse.

Just because a person doesn't put hands on you that doesn't mean they aren't abusive. Abuse is control, blame, disrespect, and also hurtful words.

### Physical Abuse

Physical bullying basically involves the use of physical force. Physical bullying is most prevalent in academic institutions. This bullying technique may involve the spitting, shoving, kicking or even punching. In most instances, the aggressor is physically larger than the victim or may be within a group. The idea behind physical bullying is for the bully to establish superiority and continued control over a victim.

### Other abuse

#### Sexual bullying

The NSPCC has defined sexual bullying as "any bullying behaviour, whether physical or non-physical, that is based on a person's sexuality or gender. It is when sexuality or gender is used as a weapon by boys or girls towards the same gender or a different gender."

#### Social abuse

Social bullying, sometimes referred to as covert bullying, is often harder to recognise and can be carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Social bullying includes: lying and spreading rumours, negative facial or physical gestures, menacing or contemptuous looks, playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate, mimicking unkindly, encouraging others to socially exclude someone, damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance.

### Verbal Abuse

Verbal bullying incorporates the use of words to carry out an act of bullying. In this type of bullying, the aggressor also known as the bully tries to verbally upset the victim through taunting and teasing. The verbal assault might focus on an individual's appearance, lifestyle choices, intellect, skin colour and even ethnicity (this means the fact or state of belonging to a social group or cultural tradition). Most verbal bullies have a low self esteem and tend to bully others so they increase their social standings and feel better about themselves.

# What's on in Worcester

CHRISTMAS is here! The lights have been put on; the weather is bitterly cold and the countdown is on to the 19th of December. There are an array of different activities that you and your family can do!

Travel up to the Evesham Regal Cinema on Christmas eve to watch ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ at 8 o’clock in the evening what better way to get you in the festive spirit.



For those of you who enjoy the historic background, the Commandery have a Christmas through the ages event which does what it says. the event runs at the Commandery till the 31st of December  
The Hive have a vast selection of different events suited to everyone’s taste look at their

website for more information.  
The Swan theatre have a Sleeping Beauty pantomime between the 4th of December to the 7th January. A great way to entertain younger siblings!



## Christmas Word Search

G	N	E	N	A	C	Y	D	N	A	C	M
I	U	Y	P	C	C	A	R	O	L	S	B
F	D	N	W	V	F	A	C	Y	A	H	D
T	N	K	O	A	N	U	O	L	T	G	W
S	S	R	V	R	N	Y	F	L	N	I	S
S	E	T	E	R	T	I	P	O	A	E	H
Y	T	T	O	E	E	H	K	J	S	L	A
H	S	N	Y	C	D	D	P	U	Z	S	X
O	N	A	E	L	K	N	N	O	Q	M	C
L	E	U	M	M	I	I	I	C	L	R	O
I	E	S	L	T	A	M	N	E	K	E	O
D	R	K	E	F	S	N	A	G	R	J	K
A	G	N	S	L	M	I	R	F	D	V	I
Y	T	X	N	M	C	K	R	O	S	G	E
O	L	Y	I	O	L	Z	B	H	A	Z	S
E	E	R	T	G	V	S	R	H	C	Q	K

- TREE  
HOLIDAY  
GIFTS  
STOCKING  
SANTA  
SLEIGH
- REINDEER  
JOLLY  
CAROLS  
COOKIES  
RED  
GREEN
- CHRISTMAS  
NORTH POLE  
TINSEL  
FAMILY  
ORNAMENTS  
CANDY CANE



## Christmas Tree Festival

at  
**Worcester Cathedral**

*a glittering avenue of decorated trees celebrating the festive season*

### FREE Family Event

(Donation appreciated)

Dec 8th - Jan 4th  
Opening Times  
9.00am - 5.00pm  
Everyday

Supporting  
Daisychain Benevolent Fund  
and  
Worcester Cathedral

### Christmas Alphabet Challenge

Can you come up with a Christmas themed word for each letter of the alphabet?

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z



# Options, Assessment and Report Update

DURING the course of 2015 -16 we reviewed our assessment and reporting practice for students in KS3 and 4. This document explains some of the changes and acts as a brief guide to our new practice.



**Why have we changed our assessment and reporting practice?**

- The old KS3 levels have been withdrawn by the DfE (Department for Education)
- The new GCSE Grading structure (1-9) now applies to students in all year groups,
- The new grading's are being phased in nationally gradually replacing A\* - G Grades.

**When will each subject be affected by the new GCSEs?**

- Phase 1 – Maths and English (GCSEs taken in summer 2017)
- Phase 2 – Sciences, history, geography, languages, art and design, music, drama, dance, computer science, nutrition, physical education and EP (GCSEs to be taken in summer 2018).
- Phase 3 – Other subjects including: design & technology, media, business studies (GCSEs to be taken in summer 2019)

**Target Setting**

- Students will follow a 5-year 'Flight Path Model' from Year 7 to Year 11 for Core and English Baccalaureate subjects (English, maths, science, geography, history, languages and EP). These targets will have been rolled back from end of KS4 GCSE targets.
- Target pathways will be based on new GCSE Grades numbered 1-9.
- From September 2016 new KS3 students, studying non-core subjects, (DT, art, music, dance, drama, and physical education) will have targets set using baseline assessments at the start of year 7 or will have targets rolled back from end of KS4 GCSE targets.

**How do we know students are making expected progress?**

Ultimately, a student's progress 8 and value added score at the end of Key Stage 4 will show how much progress has been made over their school career. As a student moves through the school the academic challenge will increase. Students have to understand, assimilate and apply new knowledge throughout the key stage to remain on track or ahead.

**How will we assess students?**

We will assess students in many different ways. Assessments will be graded using the new GCSE 1-9 grading's, except where students have started GCSE's that still award the old

A\*-G grades. Students will complete informal internal assessments within their classroom lessons; these may take the form of end of unit tests, practical assessments or skills test. Students will also complete formal internal assessments – these are carried out during internal exam week/s and are scheduled in the hall and or gym (with the exception non-core subjects for year 7). The calendared timing of these weeks depends upon the specific year group. Formal internal assessments are used to review and consolidate a wide range of learning, they are also used to diagnose gaps. The majority of formal internal assessments will mirror GCSE style testing and questions.

**Approximate timing of internal assessments**

**Year 7** - June  
**Year 8** - May  
**Year 9** - January (most subjects), July (Eng, maths, sci)  
**Year 10** - Dec for English Literature, June / July for other subjects  
**Year 11** - Mock 1 Nov/Dec Mock 2 March

**Reporting information to Parents and Students**

Parents / carers and students will receive reports that summarise information relating to progress, attendance and behaviour approximately 3 times per year. The information that will be included in each report is slightly different for students in key stage 3 and 4. Each report will be provided in a printed format and in a digital format on the school portal.

**KS3 reports (years 7 8, & 9)**

**Information that will be included in reports include**

Overall attendance % to date and number of lates to date

**KS3 Subject specific**

**For each subject there will be ...**

- A teacher judgment of the 'current working at' grade that the student is performing at on the new grade scale
- A teacher judgement of student effort on a 0-3 scale.
- A teacher judgement of student behaviour on a 0-3 scale.
- A teacher judgement of the progress being made by the student.
- A 'next step in learning comment' from the teacher that provide a focus for the key subject specific priorities that need addressing (twice per year)

The 'working at' grade will have three different ratings (sub grading's)

+ Mastered (securely working at grade, very few areas of weakness)

= Securing (working well at grade level with a few significant weaknesses)

- Developing (starting to work at target level but

with a range of weaknesses or gaps in knowledge)

In year 9 for English, maths and science the teacher judgement of the current 'working at grade' will be replaced with a banded 'teacher estimate to the end of KS4'. This will provide an indication of the grade that the teacher thinks the student may achieve at the end of the GCSE based upon current indicators.

**KS4 reports (years 10 & 11)**

**Information that will be included in reports include**

Overall attendance % to date number of lates to date

**KS4 Subject specific**

For each subject there will be ...

- A teacher judgment of the 'estimated GCSE grade' that the student may achieve in the subject at the end of the GCSE course
- A teacher judgement of student effort on a 0-3 scale.
- A teacher judgement of student behaviour on a 0-3 scale.
- A teacher judgement of the progress being made by the student. See appendix table 3
- A 'next step in learning comment' from the teacher that provide a focus for the key subject specific priorities that need addressing (twice per year)

The 'estimated GCSE grade' will have three different ratings

+ secure grade– hopefully guaranteed of the grade, could potentially achieve the grade above

= insecure grade - intervention required to secure grade or boost to the next grade

- very insecure grade - a high level of intervention is required, the student is as likely to achieve the grade below

**Reporting information to Parents and Students – Form reports**

In addition to the subject reports described above parents/carers will also receive a report that is written by the students' form tutor once per academic year. The published date for the full report varies for each year group but does coincide with year specific priorities.

**Parental Consultation Evening**

Our organisation and arrangements for 'Parental Consultations Evenings' are also under review, changes will be shared as soon as possible.

**1-9 GCSE grades**



which not only outlines specific information about courses on offer but also provides self-reflection activities designed to support them in the choices that have to be made. Students will be told to take their 'Future Focus' booklet home, as we find that it also enables parents/carers to practically support students throughout this decision making process. It is important to emphasise that our options process this year will follow a supportive 'pathway' approach. Each student has been assigned to a specific options pathway and this has been designed to ensure that each student selects GCSE courses

Reformed GCSE Grades

**9** (top 3.5% of the cohort)

**8**

**7** ( 7 and above same proportion as A and above)

**6**

**5** (new strong pass grade benchmark)

**4** (new standard pass grade benchmark, equivalent to a old "C" grade at GCSE)

**3**

**2**

**1** – (bottom of 1 lines up with the bottom of an old G grade)

P3 + ,=, - Pre GCSE grade

P2 + ,=, - Pre GCSE grade

P1 + ,=, - Pre GCSE grade

Effort and behaviour statements for all reports

**Effort Behaviour**

**3** - Excellent - Consistently high level of effort, both in class and in homework. Consistently high standard of behaviour and always ready to take a full part in lessons.

**2** - Good - A pleasing level of effort in homework and in class. You are well-behaved and take part in lessons.

**1** - Room for improvement - You could be trying harder – either in class, in your homework or in both You need to be corrected at times and/or you need to take part more in lessons.

**0** - Cause for concern - Not good enough, you need to try harder! Not good enough, your behaviour needs to improve!

Teacher's judgement of progress statements for all reports

Teacher's judgement of progress

**3** - Making rapid progress MRP

**2** - Making steady progress MSP

**1** - Making slow progress MLP

**0** - Serious concerns regarding progress SCP

## Key Dates

Week beginning 15th January 2018  
Year 9 Examination week (not English, maths and science)

**31st January 2018** - Key Stage 4 Courses Options Evening

**Week Beginning 12th March 2018** – Year 11 Mock 2 week

**Thursday 15th March 2018** – Year 11 Examination and Revision Information Evening

**Week Beginning 19th March** – Year 11 Art Exams, Year 10 English Literature Mock Examinations

**Thursday 22nd March 2018** - Year 10 English Literature Examination and Revision Information Evening

**14th May 2018** – Main GCSE Examinations - timetable begins



**Key Stage 4 Courses Evening, Wednesday 31st January 2018, 7pm**

The start of the KS4 options process marks an important time for students in their journey through school. This evening will enable students and parents/carers to speak to all the individual Curriculum Leaders in school, collecting detailed course information and having any questions that you may have answered. In the past this event has proved to be extremely valuable in enabling students to make the correct decisions about their Key Stage 4 options.

We will also have our school Careers Advisor and local post 16 education providers present throughout the evening.

This is an exciting time to be choosing option subjects because never before has a student at Nunnery Wood High School had so much specialist advice and guidance available to help them decide which subjects they can study.

In order to help make the correct decisions at this vital time in their educational career, students will receive a 'Future Focus' booklet

that maximise their future potential. Full details about the pathways will be presented to students prior to the options evening in an assembly, are shared in the 'Future Focus' booklet and can be explained in person by a member of the senior leadership team during the Key Stage 4 Courses Evening.



# Media reviews

## Get them Out of There!

Chloe Thomas  
**YEAR 8**

ANT and Dec got everyone excited when they aired their advert for 2017's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, which is on ITV every night at 9pm. The return of the show started on Sunday November the 9th, when all the contestants flew in to the hotel before our favourite hosts paired them up with whomever the public had voted for using the I'm A Celeb app, which can be downloaded from the app store. Day 1 got off to a prohibitive start when the pairs had been announced and the boys told us all about the challenge that 3 of the pairs had to face. Walk the plank was the challenge, which the pairs thought would be easy to do, that was until they found out that the plank was on a skyscraper 350 ft off the ground. The first pair to face the plank was Jennie McAlpine (Coronation Street) and Jamie Lomas (Hollyoaks), and viewers watched in despair as Jamie practically ran across the plank as jennie slowly walked. After all pairs had walked there and pressed a button and then walked back, Ant and Dec announced that everyone did it in the required time and therefore they would all be eating a meal rather than Rice and Beans on their first night in camp. Day 2 was funny when Amir Khan was doing a challenge where Georgia Toffolo had to lie in a cabin and Amir had to complete challenges to unlock the keys to get her out, and Amir put his hand into one with his biggest fear in Snakes! He thought it was a rope he said when he pulled it out and then screamed when it landed next to him and slithered off.

Once viewers have seen a former world boxing champion made to scream like this, they want to see it again and again. So Tuesday's Trial was very much make or break for Amir if he didn't want to be sucked into a infinitive bush-tucker vortex. Flushed Out involved being trapped inside a seven-storey tower as water flooded in. Amir had to use a spanner to undo the nuts on the numbered doors that ran from the bottom to the top of the tower, with each one holding the tool for the next door – and of course a whole bunch of critters. Amir dropped the spanner and had to dive all the way to the bottom to find it. Twice. But with literally seconds on the clock he freed himself, taking home six meal tickets for his campmates. Then came a genuine shock announcement from Dec, who

revealed that YouTuber Jack Maynard has left the competition “due to circumstances outside of camp” and will be taking no further part in proceedings. Jack's departure didn't come until after the pre-recorded events of the day so had no chance to effect the mood around camp, which was wonderfully warm and supportive. Toff and Stanley Johnson (Borris Johnson's dad) had a lot of fun answering questions about their fellow campmates in a task that involved a fairground hammer-and-bell game. Stanley later said he was “touched beyond belief” by Amir, who insisted he take the final meal ticket and join the girls tucking into some delicious emu steaks at Snake Rock. Toff and Becky tackled a trial called Worst Dates on Day 4, which was the first Eating challenge of the season. Firstly, Toff had to spoonfeed a blindfolded Vardy fermented duck's egg soup, a scene that brought back some fond Harry Potter memories. But despite managing to polish off all the courses listed above, the pair only won eight meals out of nine for the camp after failing to eat the following dish in their allocated 45 seconds: five dead crickets, five cockroaches, one hawkmoth and one huntsman spider. It sounds gross, but this was all cooked up with a side of asparagus, tomatoes and lemon slice.

Because the critters weren't already making camp life tough enough, the Hollyoaks star decided to subject the celebs to a vigorous jungle exercise regime. But as appealing as Jamie's gym looks, I'll be signing up to Stanley Johnson's training programme instead, which kicked off at the other end of camp at the same time.

It was a particularly non-eventful episode, but one of the highlights that night was watching Toff clean the camp toilet. And she got some of the waste on her leg, then called it “dunny juice”. After five days in camp Stanley has firmly established himself as the resident font of knowledge – that one celebrity with enough intellectual power to genuinely leave the rest of the camp in shock and awe. he took things one step further, enchanting Jamie with his philosophical musings about the role snakes and mosquitos might play in the natural order of things. Two identical tunnels were unveiled, each made up of five chambers: box one was Sickola Sturgeon, followed by Margaret Scratcher, Theresa Dismay, Jeremy Clawbyn and Tony Scare. “They're all politicians”

names!” shouted Stanley. “Oh how funny!” chuckled his sidekick, Toff, as the penny finally dropped. But their joy soon turned to barely concealed dismay as Iain (who they genuinely willed a crab to pinch the living daylight out of) powered through to win the task, be crowned Jungle PM, and decide everyone's fate. He picked Shappi, Jennie, Dennis, Amir and Stanley to join him in Croc Creek, while Kezia, Vanessa, Rebekah, Toff and Jamie were banished to Snake Rock for a supper of rice and beans. Iain laid down the law with his new Deputy PM Shappi, but it wasn't long before a dispute over Croc Creek's cooking duties put him at odds with former MP Stanley.

And their day certainly didn't improve when they took on Croc Creek in a challenge that tested how well they knew their campmates. Little did Vanessa, Kez and Jamie know, the Croc Creek contestants were actually on their side and fighting to win care packages for all of them. Team Snake Rock were so determined to win and came tantalising close too. A tie breaker question about the number of stars won during the first series was their downfall and they had to watch their Victoria Sponge be devoured by creepy crawlies. And their day certainly didn't improve when they took on Croc Creek in a challenge that tested how well they knew their camp mates. Little did Vanessa, Kez and Jamie know, the Croc Creek contestants were actually on their side and fighting to win care packages for all of them. “Can you help me?” he asked Snake Rock rival Vanessa, who was racing against time to beat him. It seems as though he REALLY wasn't kidding when he said he'd never watched the show. Amir made it through rooms filled with fish guts, pigeons and a camel – called Donald Hump because of course – before stalling in sheer terror at the sight of a chamber filled with spiders. Amir spent quite some time fretting about the arachnids awaiting him in the room beyond, mumbling “I don't do spiders” repeatedly to the amusement of Ant and Dec. It was a solid strategy though, because Amir emerged victorious and secured food for Croc Creek and two care packages for Snake Rock. When she wasn't telling everyone to think of their grim rice and beans dinner as the kind of fare they'd be getting as part of a “really posh detox” and suggesting they might meditate, Toff was dancing along to the tune of Iain's party political

broadcasts and offering endless support to a very frustrated Vanessa. We also saw her serious side during day 6 as she took charge during a Balancing The Budget challenge, during which she had to join forces with Kezia and Vanessa to stack a series of coins on an unstable table while creepy crawlies rained down from above. And when her care package, containing her beloved fake tan, arrived, Toff assured us that the best was yet to come. So overall so far on I'm A celeb 2017 Amir screamed like a princess and Iain challenges Stanley Johnson to a political quiz.

## Book review: Alex rider Stormbreaker

Jasper Struthers  
**YEAR 9**



AS A young boy living in Chelsea, Alex rider faced a long tedious 5 years of high school but one morning a policeman knocked on his door...

Alex finds out that his (very) recently deceased uncle was actually a member of MI6 and had been discreetly training Alex for a life in the job too. Bribed into working for MI6 Alex is straight on the case of a Mr Darrius Sayle CEO of Sayle enterprises.

A thrilling adventure with many tight scrapes beautifully crafted by Horowitz, A truly masterful piece of writing. Aimed for young adults aged 10 up, a spy adventure written just for you. Must read for anyone craving action.

“Crackling with suspense and daring.”

After a showdown on a rooftop Alex meets a new face...

Yassen Gregorovich

Just days after learning that this man killed his parents Alex comes face to face with this man and in their confrontation Mr Sayle is killed. After saving the day Alex is returned to school, but MI6 aren't done with him yet...

## Christmas Movie Reviews

Nawal Jamshid  
**YEAR 8**

CHRISTMAS is approaching and for many families it means watching an array of new and classic films. These are some of the films that have caught my eye:

### Paddington 2

For those of you who have seen the first Paddington film you will know that the world fell in love with the bear in the duffel coat and his signature red hat In the film Paddington is accused of being a thief and the Brown family are out to clear his name and get him back home. On the segment on Radio 1 Ali Plumb gave the film 5 plumbs and said that if he could he would give it 6! This film is definitely one to watch.

### Kingsman: The Golden Circle

Kingsman follows on from the first film which

could be described as a grown up Storm breaker. The sequel starts with their headquarters destroyed and the world held hostage. The Kingsman spies find allies across the pond in the United States .87% of google users liked the film and I think you will too!

### Wonder

Based on the book wonder follows the story of a boy named Auggie Pullman he has a cleft palate and has never been to a real school before due to the amount of operations he has had. The film follows Auggie and the experiences he has starting a middle school. The book is one of my absolute favourites and the film is inevitable to be a success!

### Murder on the Orient Express

A train ride through Europe takes a negative twist as a passenger ends up dead due to an avalanche the world's greatest detective, Hercule

Poirot, investigates the murder by interrogating the passengers aboard to stop the murderer in its tracks before they strike again.

### Thor: Ragnarok

Imprisoned on the other side of the universe, the mighty Thor finds himself in a deadly gladiatorial contest that pits him against the Hulk, his former ally and fellow Avenger. Thor's quest for survival leads him in a race against time to prevent the all-powerful Hela from destroying his home world and the Asgardian civilization.

### Pitch Perfect Three

The world has been caught a storm by the wonderful world of the Barden Bellas and acapella. The Bellas have found themselves splitting apart and are delighted when they get the chance to reunite in a competition overseas. The trailer is great and the film is destined to be even better!



# NUNNERY SPORT

## City Cross Country Championship

THE annual Worcester City Cross Country Championships saw a record number of runners go head to head on a muddy, challenging course. Organised by Mr. Russell, the event is held at RGS, The Grange and consists of a number of races that included Year 7 Girls and Boys, Junior Girls & Boys (Year 8 & 9) and Inter Girls and Boys (Year 10 & 11).

An impressive number of 65 athletes from Nunnery Wood took part. The top 16 finishers in the Junior races and top 8 in the Inter races then qualified for the Hereford and Worcester-

shire County Championships and represent the Worcester City team. This is taking place at Sanders Park, Bromsgrove on the 20th January.

Mr Russell said,"Huge congratulations to James Dale and Georgia Fox who both won the Intermediate races (Year 10/11). Georgia's sister Jess Fox also came 6th in the Year 7 race! All ran fantastically well and I wish them the best of luck for the next stage."

Junior Girls  
Ruby Jarman (5th)

Junior Boys  
Dan Lowe (8th)  
William Rea (13th)

Inter Girls  
Georgia fox (1st)  
Lauren Kennard (4th)

Inter Boys  
James Dale (1st)



## Boys' Hockey v King Edward's Edgbaston

THE Nunnery team did not manage to win this exciting game, but showed great sportsmanship and determination throughout. As the Birmingham side strode purposefully onto the Nunnery Wood Astro it was clear that this team meant business. The newly formed Worcester boys started the game nervously but soon found their stride defending manfully against a highly talented opposition. The Nunnery defence repelled wave after wave of at-

tacks with Elliot Faryn and Zac Goodman proving to be resolute in their defensive duties. This was not all one way traffic though and Nunnery were always a danger on the break. Mr Perry's rotation system has not always been universally applauded but as half time approached the fitness of the squad seemed to be bearing fruit as a golden chance shaved the crossbar. The Nunnery team were much better organised in the second half and produced some fast flow-

ing hockey that was a pleasure to the eye. This new open style of play unfortunately left gaps in the defence which the K.E.S. team gleefully exploited scoring 4 goals. This was a harsh scoreline and one that Nunnery did not deserve.

Training is after school on Tuesdays, see Mr Perry if you would like more information.



## Setting Sights High

YEAR 10 athlete Sam Bowkett has been making exceptional progress this year and is aiming to make it through to top level competition. It may be the winter season but Sam is still extremely busy preparing and training. Sam is a discuss and hammer thrower, who holds the NWHS record for the discuss and also her club record for hammer and discuss. She has been awarded 'Most Improved' athlete by her club this year and has also achieved 'Athlete of the Month'. Sam trains at least 4 times each week at Quenton Elmhurst Athletics Club, Worcester and in Gloucester also. At her Gloucester club she is coached by Lorraine Shaw, Olympic and Commonwealth athlete.



## European Karate Title Win

YEAR 11 student Becky Pink recently won a European title when she competed in Paris in the Federation of Wad o Kai championships. Wad o Kai is a style of Karate that was introduced into the UK in 1963. Becky battled against over 30 other competitors to win the prestigious title. Becky now has her sights on the German Open Championships that take place in April. Becky said," I am delighted with my performance, all of the hard work and training has paid off. My coach Katarina at Wad o Kai Worcester has been amazing. My family is also always right behind me".

Becky trains at Wad o Kai Worcester who meet at Nunnery Wood Sports Centre. Recent studies have shown that Karate enables people not to just defend themselves but develops life skills such as; focus, teamwork, Control, balance, Discipline, co-ordination, respect, achievement, memory, fitness, self confidence and more. Why not find and more and get involved?

### Term dates - 2017 / 18

**AUTUMN TERM 2017**  
Term Starts - 6th September  
Half Term - 23rd October - 27th October  
Term Ends - 19th December

**SPRING TERM 2018**  
Term Starts - 3rd January  
Half Term - 19th February - 23rd February  
Term Ends - 29th March

**SUMMER TERM 2018**  
Term Starts - 16th April  
Half Term - 28th May - 1st June  
Term Ends - 24th July

**OTHER DATES**  
Good Friday - 30th March  
Easter - 2nd April  
May Day - 7th May  
Whitsun Bank Holiday - 28th May

**INSET DAYS**  
Monday 4th September 2017  
Tuesday 5th September 2017  
Other TED's to be confirmed

**ADDITIONAL DATES**  
Year 10 Parental Consultation - 5th April 2017

### School shop

The Finance Office have a wide range of items for sale, including stationery, equipment and revision guides.

The Finance Office is open...  
Monday to Fridays:  
8.00am - 8.50am  
10.50am - 11.05am  
1.10pm - 2.00pm  
3.05pm - 3.30pm

Our current price list is as follows:

Stationary	
Pen	10p
Pencil	10p
Ruler 6"	10p
Ruler 12"	15p
Rubber	5p
Sharpener	5p
Protractor	10p
Set Square	10p
Compass	25p
Small Pencil Case	85p
Large Pencil Case	£1.10
Art Pencil Set	£1
Mini Highlighter Set	£1.40
Large Glue Stick	40p
Stationery Set	£4
Art Sketchbook A3	£3
Art Sketchbook A4	£2
16GB Memory Stick	£5
Calculator	£5.95
Yr11 Tie	£4.20
Water Bottle	£1

Revision guides only available on ParentPay

