



Build with
HOPE

Autumn 2021



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WADDESDON

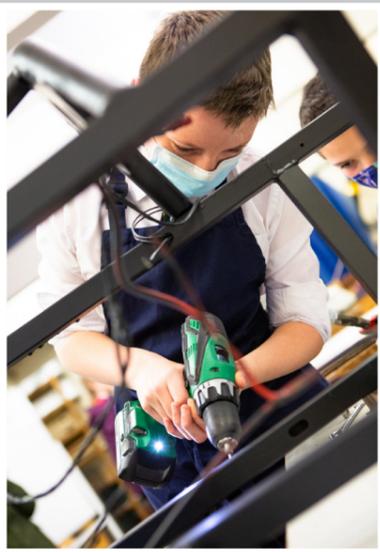
Voice
magazine

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About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 8's Tom hard at work as part of our Greenpower electric racing team. You can read more about this exciting project in the following pages, and we'll be keeping up to date with the development of the car in future issues.



From the Headteacher

Alexander Pope's famous line "Hope springs eternal" has been an abiding and recurring theme this term. We build with hope and as we build, the hope enables us to flourish.

When we hope for the best, even (and especially) in the face of adversity, we notice more moments of joy and find the strength to overcome obstacles. I would like to mention just three moments of hope, among many this half-term, and set you a challenge in relation to my second moment.

My first moment of hope relates to the front cover of this edition of the Voice. Quite simply it is the hope that an enriching and exciting curriculum provides for our young people. At a time when they have had their worlds rocked, opportunities such as working on the Greenpower Project enable them to see how they can actively shape and influence the world in which they live.

The second moment of hope came via a knock on my office door in October when a student in Year 8, Lydia, appeared one day. She had with her the book, 'One Hundred Reasons to Hope'. This book is linked to Captain Sir Tom Moore's remarkable endeavours

during the pandemic and his family's continuation of his beliefs after his death. You may remember him saying, "For all those finding it difficult: the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away. Remember that tomorrow will be a good day."

It certainly was a good day when Lydia opened the book and showed me her contribution to one hundred hopeful reflections during the pandemic. If you want a spot of distraction this holiday, there are also one hundred reasons to hope hidden in this edition of the newsletter. My challenge to you is to see if you can spot them all. Prizes for the first few answers sent to the office@waddesdonschool.com email account.

The last moment for hope is an annual



Matthew Abbott

one. It comes with the lighting of the Advent Candle on the first Sunday in December. The first candle reminds us that hope can shine in the darkest of days and of the message of Hope through the birth of Jesus Christ. My desire is that all families will experience hope, whatever your faith background, this December.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13



"Hi, I'm Isla from Year 8, and I'm the Team Manager of the Waddesdon Warriors. We are building an F24 electric car for the Greenpower project."

We started out in June when we were first introduced to the project. We were given the opportunity to build an environmentally safe go-kart from scratch. Aylesbury High School (AHS) are already a well-seasoned team who were kind enough to teach us the ropes and helped us get started. Thanks to them we are well on our way to constructing a winning car.

Greenpower Education Trust is a UK based charity, which gets young people enthusiastic about science and engineering, by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car. Around 500 schools have taken part in the project since the Trust was founded in 1999.

We have already removed all the components of the car for cleaning and sanding, and over the course of the past few weeks, we have been stripping them of all their paint. Waddesdon Warriors' Head of Design, Sophie, has come up with the colour scheme and pattern and we are currently spray painting all components and the main structure in its base colour (black), ready to go over it with more black, green

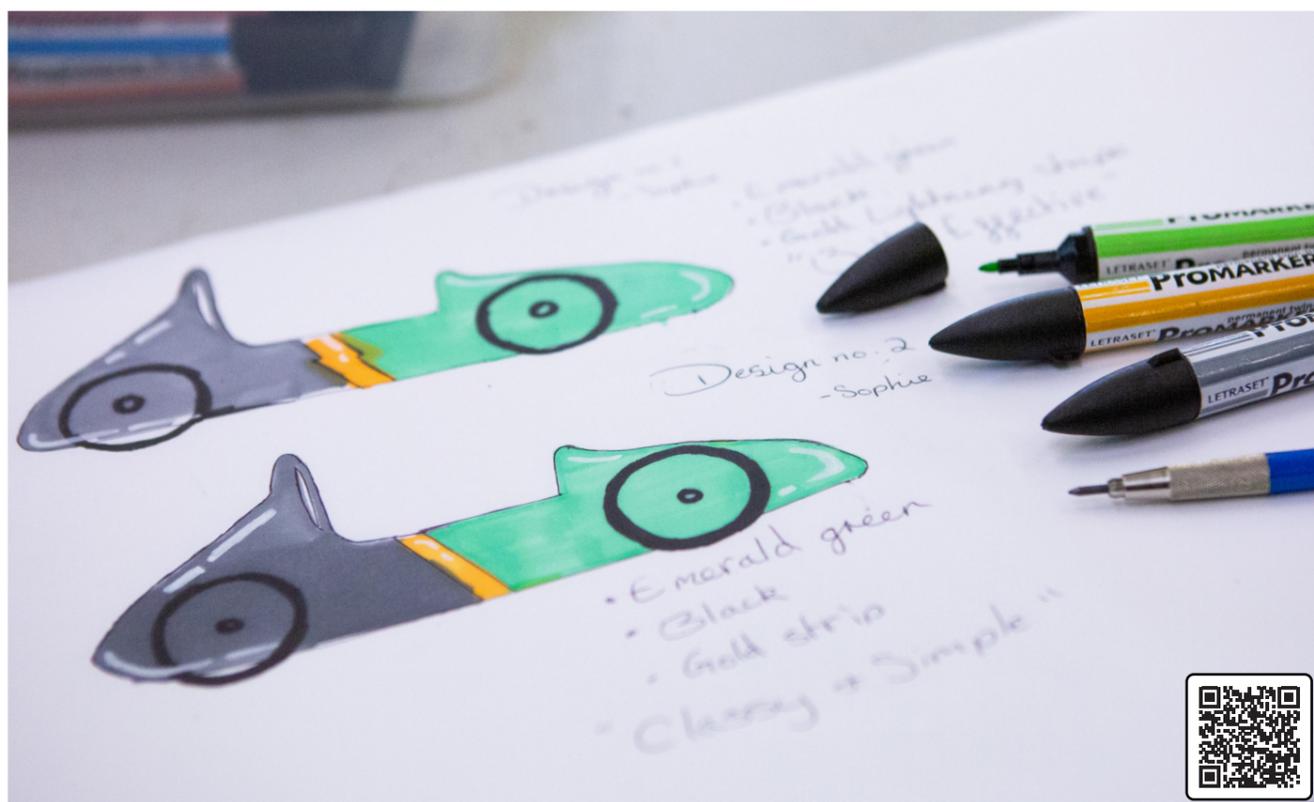
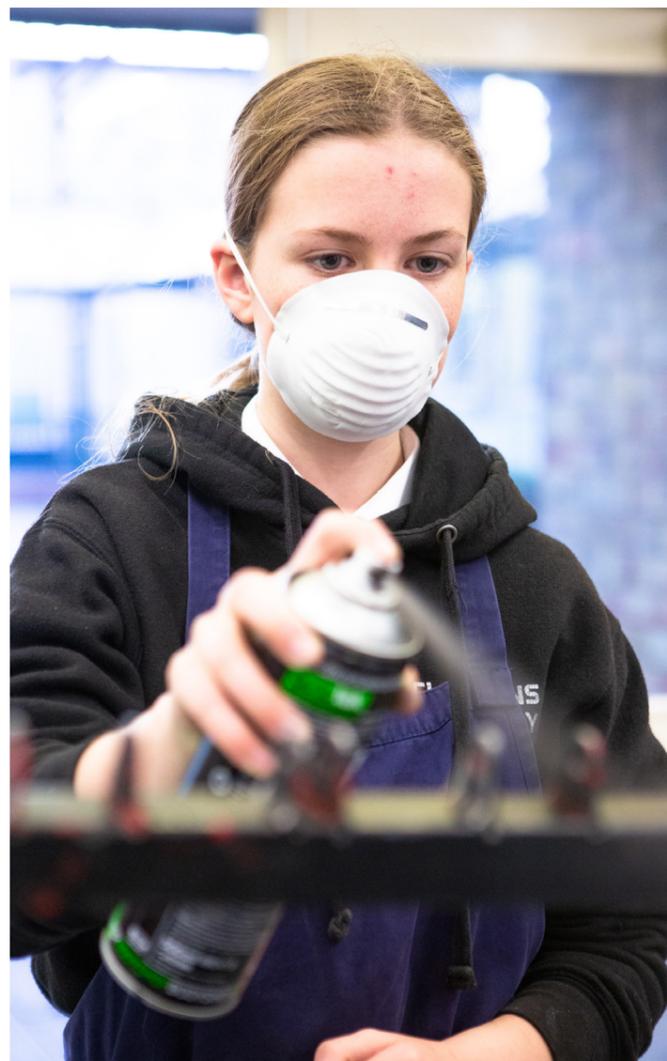
and a golden lightning bolt – inspired by the colours of the school.

Our next step as a team is to reconstruct the car, by putting all its components back in the correct places, and constructing and designing around our chassis (a chassis is the metal framework of the car). This is the most expensive part of the car. We can't go without helmets (£20), overalls (£20), race day tickets (£80), van hire (£142), fuel (£42), batteries (£60 x 4), battery chargers (£47) and a Greenpower motor (£130). Thankfully though, we have a plan: we need sponsors. Someone (or a business), prepared to invest and give us money/material to help our car and team. Except for the fact we don't need Mercedes or Red Bull on our side, we need anything an F1 team

would need, like helmets and motors/batteries. Our sponsorship team is thinking about potential business sponsors, and writing letters to those businesses. So hopefully, before long, we will have a shiny new chassis to fit to our car.

Our aspiration is to compete in around 4 races a year. These races will take us to the Top Gear track and even Silverstone – if we're lucky! Of course, we want to win, but this year our focus is to build on our knowledge of Greenpower and see what's involved with these kinds of races. In the future, we want to make it to the finals and race at Silverstone.

We are looking forward to the engineering, designing and testing, and we are hoping that all our hard work will pay off.



BUSINESS LUNCH

Our Sixth Form Business Studies students went out for lunch at a successful eaterie which, as Year 12's Phoebe explains, serves up all the correct ingredients for a successful and profitable small business.

On Monday 8th November a group of Year 12 and 13 Business Studies students went on a school trip to Mandira's Kitchen, based in Surrey. Mandira is an entrepreneur who set up her business just before the first lockdown, her passion for home-cooked Indian ready meals the driving force behind setting up her business venture. Her aim is to be sustainable, making sure that all her packaging is recyclable and has changed it to suit her customer needs.

When we arrived at Mandira's Kitchen, we were introduced to Mandira and her staff, who were all very welcoming and humble. As we sat down, they offered us homemade samosas and hot chocolate, and then Mandira proceeded to teach us about how her business came to be and

the reality of what starting a business is all about. She was very interactive and asked us all lots of questions about why one would want to start a business, and how there is much more to it than gaining money. I was quite shocked to find out that she currently takes no wages from the profit made from her sales, and puts everything back into the business. This really helped in teaching us how you should be an entrepreneur because you are invested in your ideas and visions, and you want to make a difference to the world by filling that gap in the market rather than just being motivated by money – that will come later after a lot of hard work.

Once we had finished with our lesson, Mandira and her staff served us curry in a 'thali' (a round

plate with a variety of food separated on it). It had a lot of flavour and you could really tell that it was home-cooked with care. We then looked inside at her little shop, containing some unique

and fascinating products, before heading back to school. Overall, it was a very informative and useful trip, which will definitely help us to apply to our Business Studies.





JUMPING *for Joy*

Sophia

Waddesdon School now has an equestrian team, with several of our students taking part in competitions. Year 7's Freya tells us more about this exciting news.

We have created a National School Equestrian Association (NSEA) team for Waddesdon school so all who share the love of horse riding can compete representing our school! It is a great way to make friends and have fun.

NSEA also provides new venues and trickier courses, all for the fun of it and to have the opportunity to compete at incredible venues against other schools for the national titles. So far, we have already competed in the disciplines of dressage and show jumping!

On 29th December we will be showjump training as a group to get ready for the qualifiers on 15th January. We will hopefully have more training sessions available like this in the future, including, potentially, some dressage training with Waddesdon alumnus Harry Corkett.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Mr Kennedy!

All Photos: © Ria Bond except *



Sophia, Freya and Annabel



Freya

* Photo by SBM Photographic



Eleanor

As well as Freya, Year 7 competitors also include Eleni and Eva, we also have Eleanor from Year 8, Annabel, Sophia and Tabitha in Year 9, and Sophia in Year 10.

We've already enjoyed some success, with Freya coming fourth in the 90cm and Eleanor coming first in the 1m in a recent show jumping competition.



“There’s just no substitute for being with another person - physically with them in the same space.”

Our Chaplain, Rev Phil White, has experienced the loneliness of isolating with Covid, and reminds us that it is our relationships that give us hope.

From the Chaplain

Well, like many of you I got Covid 19 - early in November! My symptoms weren’t particularly severe - I just felt ill, had a fever and very little energy - thankfully, no breathing problems.

My lateral flow test and the PCR test both tested positive and then the whole Track and Trace system kicked in. I think I had about 6 calls from them, making sure that I was not going out. It was actually 11 days in total.

Because I wanted to protect my wife, Anne, and our lodger, I locked myself away in our spare bedroom for the whole time. Anne brought me food each mealtime and chatted for a few minutes in the doorway each day. I have to say that the isolation was the worst bit. I couldn’t wait to be let out and do normal things again. It was the hope of

release that kept me going - counting down the days!

For me, the relationships I have bring me hope. I got loads of calls, messages and video calls, but actually they didn’t take away the sense of isolation I was feeling. You will remember all too vividly the isolation we all experienced over the last 20 months or so and how difficult it was.

During my isolation I had no physical contact with anyone. I was so looking forward to hugging Anne when it was safe. I’m so thankful for the digital world we have at our fingertips - the ability to speak to people miles away over video calls. But there’s just no substitute for being with another person - physically with them in the same space. Perhaps my isolation for that brief period has made me grateful again for the

people I see every day. They bring me hope.

I’m reminded of Jesus and the fact that he chose 12 disciples - 12 friends to follow him. We only have a few accounts of his interactions with them but I’m pretty sure there were loads of evenings on the hillside around a camp fire (away from the crowds) - just being together, eating, joking and sharing life together. I’d love to have been there.

I’m so grateful for the relationships I have - people give me hope, you give me hope. And actually being with each other keeps our relationships alive and real. Let’s not take it for granted that we can be with each other again.

We were not designed or created to live in isolation. Thank God for each other.

A Flying Start | Year 7’s Penny on her first term with us

I have had an amazing half term so far at Waddesdon! This is due to my excellent teachers (especially my Form Tutor, Mr Dangana, my Learning Support Assistant, Miss Dale, and my Head of Year, Miss Cullen), my wonderful new friends and the amazing opportunities like a visit to Green Park and having the chance to play Lavender in the school musical : Matilda Jr.

I have really enjoyed trying new subjects and revisiting old favourites from primary school. I really enjoy creative and challenging subjects and Waddesdon has so many of these to offer, including all of the tech subjects; I’ve recently studied Textiles, Religious Studies, CP, Drama and English, but this is just a handful of the countless subjects that I love.

As I previously said, my form (7JDa) have recently visited Green Park (see page 19) where we got to know each other better and build trebuchets, which I particularly enjoyed. We also tested our archery skills (in my case, appalling) and we scaled a rock climbing wall (despite my minuscule limbs, I managed to complete it).

Matilda has been a pleasure to work on with Miss Turner, Miss Osbourne and Mr Judson and my new friends for life in all different years.

To summarise, my time at Waddesdon has been absolutely unforgettable and I would certainly recommend the school to my friends, family and anyone who wants an exceptional, memorable education.



THANKS
for everything

“On 19th October the whole school had their Service of Praise and Thanksgiving assembly.” Year 7’s Sophia considers one of the most significant events in the Waddesdon calendar.

It was a time for everyone to reflect on personal experiences in the past, whether it was an academic performance, sport or performing arts, and to be grateful to God or providence. From Bible readings to speeches, the teachers and students gave thought provoking messages for example “*Rejoice always... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*”. It made me think about how I live my life as a student at Waddesdon and whether I am grateful enough.

As I stood up and gave my reading everyone was quiet and mindful, thinking about the words of the Bible and how it related to them. Mr. Dangana clarified that the

Service of Thanksgiving wasn’t an American idea of thanksgiving, but a universal need for gratitude. I felt as though everyone took in the message and reflected upon it.

The service included music from the worship band and Mr. Judson, which was very uplifting for a Tuesday, and made us all think how thankful we should be to have such wonderful music to listen to every morning in assembly.

Libby in Year 13 said, “It was peaceful and reflective and helped you become aware of your surroundings and be grateful”. The service had such a lovely atmosphere for everyone and made us feel thankful for all we have.



Money Talks

“On the 21st of October, Year 12 Finance had the first visit from Billy, who works for HSBC.”

Kayden and Nabyu explain why the session earned such a high level of interest from them.



Billy is on the graduate programme with HSBC and he started the session by giving us a valuable insight into how he studied for his A levels and why he went into Banking and Finance. We were fortunate enough to get an insight of what routes we could take to go into the financial industry.

The educational session delivered by Billy gave us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the different types of borrowing, the risks involved and why people borrow, as well as what types of financial problems can be experienced, particularly with payday loans and the effects of high interest rates. After the session, we were able to ask questions,

which was a fantastic opportunity for us to gain a better understanding of the role of commercial banks and possible career opportunities within a bank like HSBC.

During Billy's presentation we also gained an understanding of vital financial information about saving products. He spoke in depth about different short-term savings products, such as high interest savings accounts and instant access accounts, as well as longer term saving options such as a Lifetime ISA. Everything that was discussed was relevant to ensuring the financial sustainability of individuals and we personally found it very interesting. There

are so many ways you can help your finances including managing good debt and staying away from unsustainable bad debt such as payday loans!

As a class, we performed well with the questions Billy asked us: we could sense that the visitor was happy and impressed with our current level of knowledge. Much of the understanding came from our teachers in Finance, so we are very thankful for that. There was a lot of positivity in the room when Billy introduced mini quizzes. As a group, we are quite competitive and wanted to get all the questions correct. You could really sense the passion we all have for Finance, and we even had a visit from Mr Abbott during

the session.

As we are growing up in a society with ever changing legislation, increased global population and new ways to invest your money in different financial products, we believe that finance skills have become very important for all young people. These skills could be the gateway to financial freedom and a secure future, and we both feel that Finance should be a vital part of children's everyday learning. We are looking forward to learning much more in the remaining two sessions to be delivered by Billy.

We all are so happy we are being taught all this at Waddesdon School!

For this piece, we painted on top of a wooden reindeer and were inspired by Monet's 'The Houses of Parliament', with the painter's remarkable use of fog. From there on, we had total creative freedom to design and paint the perfect Christmas decoration for this year. It was a challenge, but both of our art styles complemented each other, and we were able to create a flowing and sparkling painting to represent Waddesdon School this Christmas.

We were both very grateful to be given such artistic freedom with this piece, as we were able to re-imagine Monet's foggy and sublime painting as a twinkling, Christmassy depiction of London that we thought would really make our decoration glow. Each of us worked on one side of the reindeer, and though we were initially concerned the sides would not match, in the end the differences in style both complemented each other and allowed for a unique touch that gave us the chance to let our own style and creative decisions flow in the piece.

There were challenges to overcome in this project: neither of us had worked in acrylic paint for a while and it was strange having to get used to a less familiar medium, and we also had a deadline of only a week to create this. But with the combination of lots



“In preparation for the 2021 Christmas celebration at Waddesdon Manor, our school was commissioned to create a piece of art to be exhibited at the manor as a part of their Christmas fair.”

Year 13's Em, Becky and Abi on a project that was deer to their hearts!

of free periods, hard work and accidentally painting on each other at the back of the classroom, we got it done. We both had lots of fun creating this piece together and it was a lovely way to start off the winter term with some Christmas spirit. It was also an honour to be able to contribute to a real exhibition, and we can't wait to go and see our reindeer in its new home at Waddesdon Manor!





HAMMER Time

Warhammer Club is one of the many lunchtime clubs now running in the library. Jack and John from Year 9 tell us more about why you, too, might enjoy this fascinating game.



Warhammer Club is a group of like-minded people who all enjoy playing, painting, and constructing Warhammer. It has recently re-opened and is gaining a lot of attention from pupils from Year 7 to 11. People are finding the club to be a new and creative experience.

Warhammer is a complicated game to play,

but the more experienced players can help to guide new members. The community is always welcoming new players to the world of Warhammer, helping them choose their armies; from the robotic Tau to the trigger-happy Space Marines there is always something for everyone!

If you like chess or any

other kind of strategy games, then this game is for you. It will take a while to get used to playing, but when the game is in full swing, it becomes a blast.

The world of Warhammer is full of lore and fantastical stories of war and triumph in the world of Warhammer 40k! Or, if you prefer more of a melee play style, Sigma is there for you. From units

ranging from the valiant storm cast eternal with their massive hammers, to the deadly blood warriors with their duel wield hatchets, there is so much content in the world of Warhammer there is something for everyone, no matter the age!

If you have any questions or want to join, just ask Mrs. Staiano at lunch or break.



Ace of CLUBS

There are clubs in the library throughout the week, at lunchtimes and after school. As well as Warhammer Club, you can enjoy Chess Club, Knit and Natter, Philosophy Club and Calm Wednesdays. We asked Year 7's Annie about her favourite club and she told us, "Knit and Natter has been an amazing experience for me and has brought a lot of people together. I enjoy showing people how to crochet and hope they enjoy learning."





The English Department applied to be considered for the Lit in Colour giveaway of free books for our school. Penguin received over 1600 applications (!) but after careful deliberation, they were delighted to offer us 100 Penguin books by authors of colour for our students to enjoy, as well as the 30 copies of Sathnam Sanghera's 'Empireland'.

Penguin said that it meant so much to hear about how we will use the books and what it will mean to our students. We are so excited to receive all these books and really hope it can stir up inspiration amongst the students. We are planning different activities across the year groups where we will encourage pupils to read these books, as well as looking at ways we can help encourage and develop diversity in English Literature as a school.



Some students have already started to enjoy reading some of the books...

Book Review by Emmanuella, Year 13

Everything, Everything
by Nicola Yoon

This is one of the books won by the school. After seeing the great recommendations online about how good this book was, I decided to give it a read.

This book was an absolute pleasure as it takes you through the story of a young Afro-Caribbean girl who suffers from immunodeficiency, trapping her

indoors for her own safety.

The journey the author takes you through while reading this book allows you to see all aspects of each character, from the overbearing and overprotective mother who just wants to keep her daughter safe, to the boy next door who just wants to show Maddy some love.

It is truly amazing and is such a good read that it was turned into a film, but I do recommend reading the book first then watching the film.
Rating :4.7/5



The school gym has been recently upgraded, so it's time to come and see how getting fit can benefit both your physical and mental health.

We Can Work it Out

Giles, Year 12

Being able to use the school gym after a day at school has allowed me to relax by completely taking my mind off the stresses of life.

It has also allowed me to build new friendships with other people who also go to the gym, by motivating each other to achieve our own personal goals. Also, it has allowed me to

progress my own personal fitness goals, as the wide range of equipment allows me to train every muscle group safely and effectively.

Gracie, Year 11

The gym at Waddesdon is well equipped and available to all students. Having been newly redone, it is a great space to work out, no matter what your goals are. I think it's

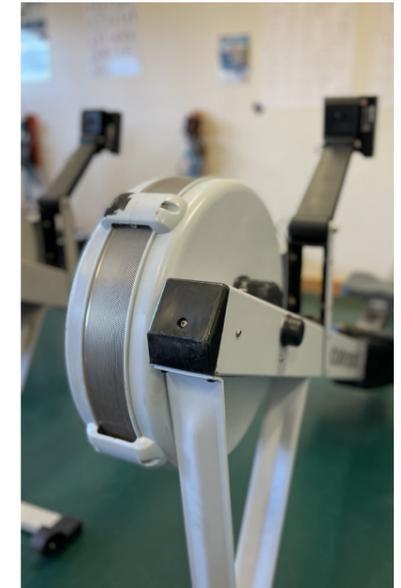
an excellent asset to the school as it's completely free and accessible to all those who wish to use it.

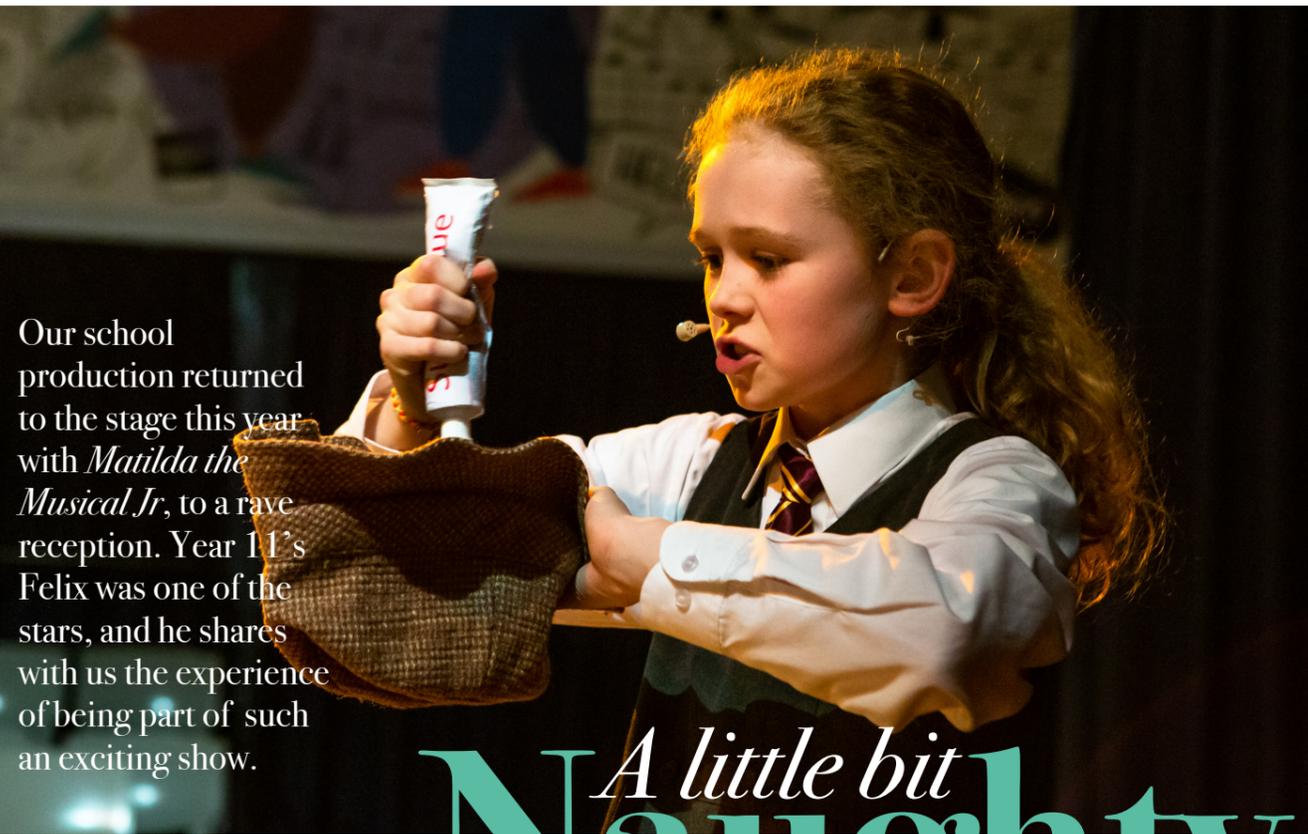
The gym has really helped me in working towards my goals and integrating with other year groups.

Exercise is extremely beneficial, not only to your physical health but also to your mental health which is very important,

especially during such stressful times as Covid 19 and the mock exams.

There is always someone there willing to help if you're new to the gym which is especially beneficial when it comes to things such as helping correct form, and there is absolutely no judgement as everyone's goals are different.





Our school production returned to the stage this year with *Matilda the Musical Jr.*, to a rave reception. Year 11's Felix was one of the stars, and he shares with us the experience of being part of such an exciting show.

A little bit Naughty

Yet again, this year's school show has blown my mind. After missing out on a live show last year, everyone was so excited to finally put one on this year, and what a show it was! This year's musical was "Matilda", the story of an extraordinary young girl, standing up for what is right in hilarious and magical ways.

The process started with auditions, a hall full of nerves and students ready to dance, sing and act their hearts out for a place in the cast. As the show starred many young students, we saw hordes of young performers audition, which, as an older student, was so incredible to see.

Those who really shone in their auditions were asked

to audition for lead roles or call-backs.

This year, I played Mr Wormwood, father of Matilda, so I was at the call-backs and saw some incredible auditions. The call-backs took place the day after the main audition, so it was only a short waiting period until the cast list was put up.

The time had arrived, and the list was up. I could see smiles everywhere, people shouting to their friends, telling them they had got the part. Those who were playing lead roles walked into the drama studio, picked up their new scripts, and ran off to go and tell all their friends.



ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

It was clear from the first rehearsal that this show was going to be phenomenal based on the collective talent of the cast. Everybody was excited to be up and moving, and enthusiastic for the next 8 weeks to come.

This is the second year that we have performed with a live band, and what a joy it was. Mr Judson worked his socks off, rehearsing with not only the band but with the cast, working on the vocals with us, and the music with the band. If any of us ever had a problem with singing or timings, he'd fix it instantly. The band was incredible and played a huge part in making the show what it was.

We had such an amazing year time working on the show and it couldn't have been done without Miss Turner, Mrs Osbourne, and Miss Churchill. Miss Turner is

the heart of the musicals, putting everything into them. It is always such a pleasure to work with her, and the enjoyment the cast have and the brilliance of the shows is all down to her commitment and hard work. Mrs Osbourne keeps everybody sane backstage, when they can't get their microphone on, and they have to be on stage in 3 seconds. She works with all the props and brings the physical side of the show to life. Miss Churchill did an incredible job this year, choreographing the entire show, bringing the big musical numbers to life, and exciting the audience.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of this year's performance. With the older years leaving, Waddesdon can expect a new era of performers and shows. Only a year's wait until the next one!



Year 7s Thandi and Phoebe shared the lead role as Matilda. They told us that despite never appearing on the stage at the same time, the experience has made them firm friends.

We are privileged to have been Matilda in our first year at Waddesdon School. Being a part of the Matilda cast has been a great opportunity to make new friends in all year groups, and with one another.

We have both loved Matilda from a young age and even dressed up as her for World Book Day! Finding out we had got the part, to us, felt like winning the lottery but 10 times bigger.

For me, Thandi, I found juggling my activities quite hard but I never wanted to miss a rehearsal. I was so dedicated to being there even on the days I had other clubs on as it was just too fun to miss.

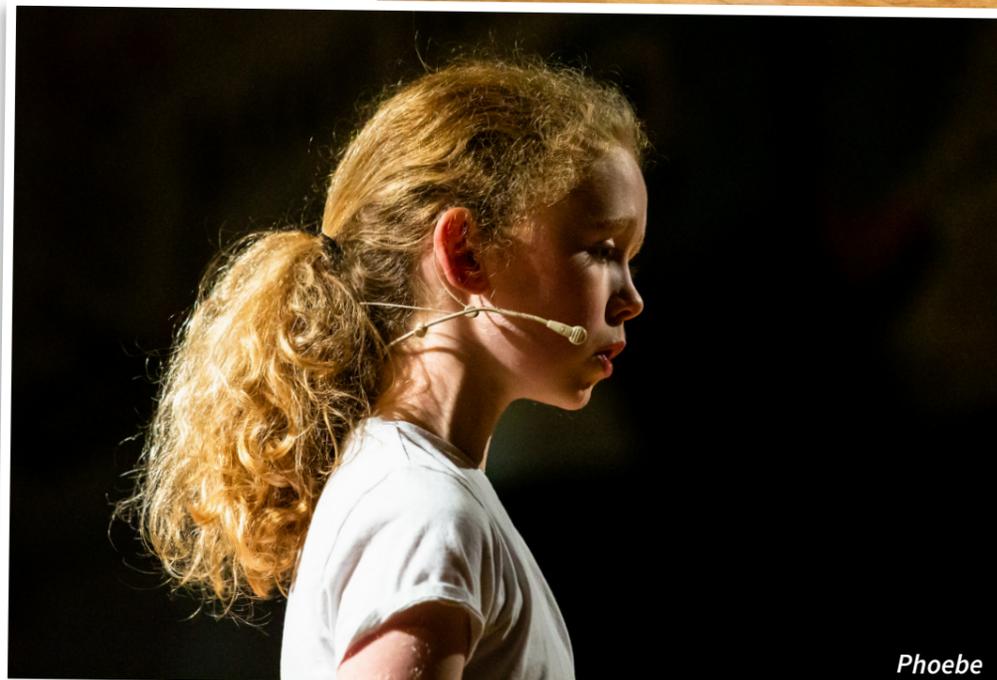
For me, Phoebe, I found rehearsals really fun, even if it meant staying after school; I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

We never really got an opportunity to become friends with each other before because we aren't in the same form. However, now we try to meet up at the library sometimes.

A massive thank you to all the teachers that helped with the show, but also the people that got us through the show with a smile like Penny Walton who played the part of Lavender. We both agree that no-one could ever replace her.

The whole company worked so hard, everyone felt a part of the team. Being Matilda was a big thing; the pressure was on! However, we were made to feel more confident by the encouragement of staff and all of the students. The senior pupils looked after us, making sure we were always doing the right thing, in the right place, at the right time. They were fantastic role models.

One day, maybe we will be able to pass on our experience and love of acting to younger pupils. For now, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the production team, lighting crew and live band for making Matilda such a special first Waddesdon performance for us.



Our new Year 7s had the chance to get to know each other better and to have a day of fun and adventure at Green Park. Sammy went along, and he tells us about some of the activities they enjoyed.

Green Park is an experience that I would highly recommend to all schools who care about giving students a rounded education. The fun activities and general team building provided us with a plethora of amusing and lively activities to enable us to bond as a form, and to recognise and develop our own individual skills.

Our first project was archery. Having previously experienced archery, I consider myself as having quite a skill when it comes to targets. Attaching our arm braces and readying our sturdy hand-crafted bows, we took turns in discharging the arrow from our serving nocking point. It was unquestionably satisfying watching everybody become more and more proficient in their skills.

Now, imagine being hoisted up to a harness and given slack by your fellow teammates... rock climbing was next! With a colossal rock wall in front of us, the challenge was to work as a team and to trust one another to make it to the top. Personally, I couldn't get up because my shoes wouldn't grip or allow it. I much preferred the final activity which involved building our own home-made trebuchet. Although ours was never sturdy and kept falling apart, it was another fun and enjoyable team-building activity for all my team.

Finally, being worn out after all these exertions, sufficed to say, the bus trip home was a lot quieter. Over all, an incredible experience I would try again and wish every Year 7 in the country had a chance to try.





Our year 10 students explored the importance of international unity and alliances between nations as they participated in a mock UN council meeting.

The delegates met to discuss some of the most serious global issues that hold a prominent place in discussions between world leaders. Divided into 25 countries, they researched their nations and their issues that were to be presented to the council. They also researched details from five areas (state security, global economics, health epidemics,

child exploitation, and environmental issues) in which they would create resolutions to be debated.

At the start of the day, a presentation was broadcast live from The Hague from an ex-student who was passionate about MUNGA when studying here at Waddesdon. The representatives from each of the 25 countries then

delivered a speech on their nation, outlining the issues they faced and how they could contribute to the session. On the whole, the speeches were excellent in their delivery and content, and the delegates showed a firm and well-researched understanding of their countries.

The countries then divided and discussed their

resolutions, to come up with a final five for the council to debate and vote on. A clear favourite emerged, which was a resolution on climate change; and the COVID pandemic came second.

This resolution was debated, and a final vote was taken. The result was in favour of this resolution and it was passed.



Our Duke of Edinburgh Award students took their tents and Trangias and got out in the fields recently. Year 9's Elsie was among them.

On the day of the DofE expedition we were driven to a sailing club, which is where we were going to be doing all of our activities and camping.

When we got there, we got into our group and went round the different stations: tent pitching, packing your bag, map reading and learning to cook on the Trangia,

which was my favourite activity. Once we had gone round each station we put all of our belongings in our tents and then set up the Trangias and cooked our dinner. Most people had pasta because it is the easiest food to cook.

In the morning, everyone had to get up early to start walking at 9am, so everyone had to put

their sleeping bags away, have breakfast and pack up all of their things. Unfortunately, by the time we had started walking, we were an hour late, but we managed to keep up.

On our walk there were six check points, so we could have a break each time. Luckily, we did not lose anyone but we did lose a roll mat, and

at one point we found ourselves in the middle of a field and, if I'm honest, we didn't really know where we were! Reaching the end of our six-hour walk, we felt exhausted, but with a great sense of achievement.

Thank you to all the staff that helped us to reach the end. Now we just have to do the actual thing!





HOME *Sweet* HOME

“For our Year 7 Geography we have been looking at our local areas. Local means the area where you live. These are my perceptions of my village.”

Year 7’s George tells us why, for him, home is where the heart is.

I live in a small village called Ludgershall. I have lived here for just over a year now and I love it. It is very small with a population of around 409 people living in it. It is eight miles west of Waddesdon so it is quite close. I live near a place called Brill which is where my old primary school was and I have to go there for food because in Ludgershall there are no shops. We do live right next to a place called the Bull and Butcher though, who do the best pizza!

There are lots of great things about my area, but my favourite is that there is a park opposite my house! I play at it almost every day with my brother. I also like that the area is very rural, so the walks are amazing. Sometimes we get fish and chips on a Saturday because a fish and chip van comes round.

I do like living in my village but it is not perfect. This is because I do not live close to my friends, so it is harder to meet up with them. Another annoying thing is that there are no shops, not even a small one, so we have to drive to Brill, Thame or even Bicester. I would also like it if they added an astro or tennis court, since that would make the park a lot better.

I would like to live in Ludgershall when I am older, but with the job I would want it would mean that I would probably have to move. Maybe when I am older I can move back.

Since joining Waddesdon I have enjoyed finding out about the area local to my school, like Waddesdon Manor and the park. I am looking forward to exploring this further and have really enjoyed it so far.



SOMETHING TO *Shout* ABOUT

Year 9’s Cerys and Year 10’s Jude recently attended a Shout Out for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) workshop. Here’s what they had to tell us.

What is Shout Out for SEND?

Shout Out for SEND is a way to have your say and make sure that local activities and services are suitable for young people with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities). Young people with SEND are being listened to by Buckinghamshire Council and their school or college.

How did the day go?

We arrived at the Wycombe Wanderers stadium (Adams Park). We did three different workshops: one on college and sixth form, one on apprenticeships,

and one on university. They were all very useful as they taught us how to prepare for adulthood.

What did the workshops teach you?

They taught us about how young people with SEND can get into jobs/apprenticeships or even college or university. The people there taught us there is never only one way to get to a goal you want to achieve.

Who was there?

There were a lot of different people at the conference such as students and teachers from different sixth forms, universities and colleges.

There were also members of Buckinghamshire Council who help young people with SEND prepare for adulthood.

Why do these conferences happen?

They happen because young people with SEND need to have a way to make sure that local

activities and services are suitable for anyone who wants or needs them. These services can include more time to work on a test/exam, learning and support assistance, Braille, and large print. All these services can help anyone with SEND get through their school life and prepare them for adulthood.



SEAS

THE DAY



"A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Small Ships Race 2021. It is a sailing race funded by the Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO) and is an incredible opportunity that, if you ever get the chance, I would thoroughly recommend grabbing with both hands." Year 10's Amelia tells us about her amazing sailing experience.

The race is for beginners and is open to young people from the age of 12-25. I attended with my Explorer Scout Unit and stayed for three nights on the boat Discovery, sailing over the course of those days. We arrived in

Southampton on Thursday evening: it was quite dark by the time we'd reached our destination and we were relieved when we fell into our beds on the two boats, Discovery and Thermopylae. A total of twelve people, including the Skipper and other instructors, were with us on Discovery, whilst Thermopylae had fifteen. We awoke early in the morning and the crew began to make breakfast and learn the basics of how to run the boat.

There were three sails, all of which were difficult, but interesting, to raise. We pulled huge, heavy bags of sails and ropes out of the compartments in the cockpit, and then began the treacherous task of raising the sails. Remembering the knots for certain objects and positions is something I had no skill in

whatsoever... I spent about fifteen minutes learning how to tie a bowline, and I still couldn't manage it! We began the practice on

Friday and sailed around the Solent, practising different sailing drills, including changing the direction of the sail and

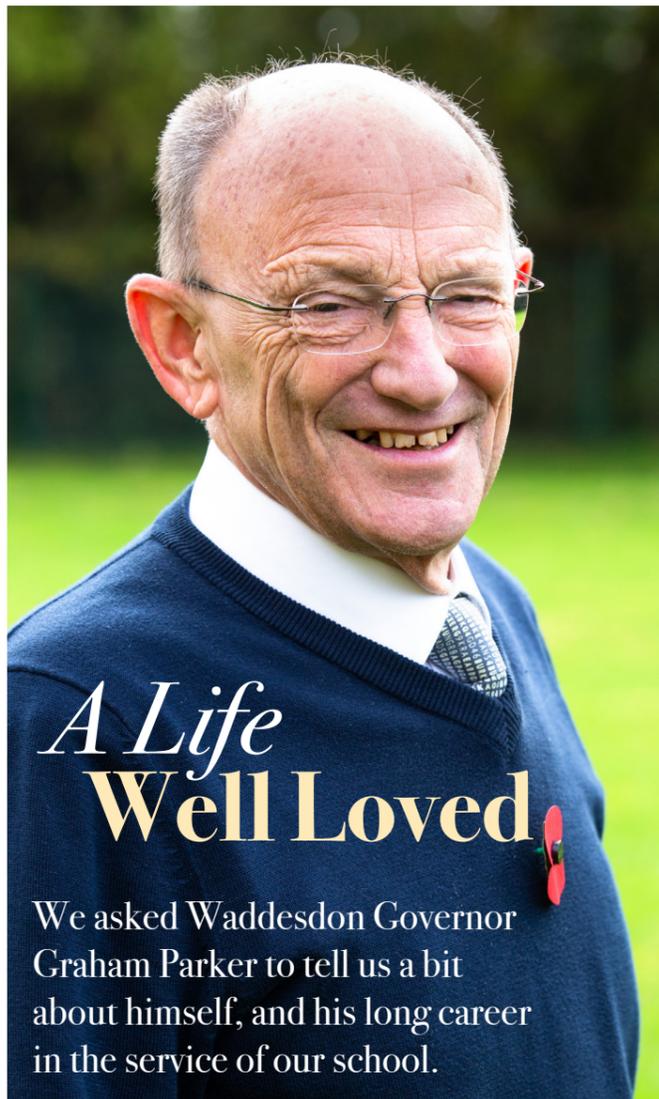


Me winding the rope

a man overboard practice – although we didn't use an actual person! It's very difficult to change the sail direction... if you're changing course, the wind will be on a different side of the sails, so it's important to adjust them in order to get the most wind power. To do this, we had to hook up the ropes attached to each sail to a winch and then pull the rope to rotate it and the winch. It was very difficult to pull such a heavy piece of material... and, once we couldn't pull anymore, we had to use a metal handle to tighten it even further. It was a tremendous task, especially when we were clipped to the boat and it was tipping so much! It was quite small so tipped easily. However, we all worked together and appreciated the values of teamwork when in a situation like this.

The race was on Saturday. Unfortunately, it had to be moved forward and shortened to avoid the high winds, as there was a storm forecast that day. We sailed from Cowes on the Isle of Wight, through the Solent, and back to a different part of the island. A total of eleven boats participated: one pulled out, Thermopylae came last and we were an impressive penultimate! Although it wasn't easy and we only beat one boat, it was an incredible, fascinating learning curve which I thoroughly enjoyed. I got to spend time with friends outside of school, as well as making new ones, and I learnt a lot about the sport of sailing. It only remains for me to give a huge thank you to the school for allowing me to experience this incredible opportunity! I have memories that will last a lifetime!





A Life Well Loved

We asked Waddesdon Governor Graham Parker to tell us a bit about himself, and his long career in the service of our school.

So ... and this is where the story begins. I was appointed to teach humanities at Waddesdon, to start 1st September 1973. I like to think I was the person to pioneer the taking of 'O' levels when the prevailing view was that this was beyond our students who were 'better suited' to CSEs.

I was appointed 'Second Master' (whatever that means) on 1st September 1979 on a salary of £6,894 + a £6 a month superannuable supplement as Head of Humanities. For ten years I was Chief Examiner for British Social & Economic History for the AEB board, helped set up the D of E at Waddesdon with Tom Goodwin, and organised and led two-month long gold expeditions, one to Kenya and the other to the Blue Ridge Mountains in the USA. I also set up a school annual exchange with

McLean High School just south of Washington.

I was appointed as deputy head (curriculum) just before Alan Armstrong took over – and Arthur Evans was appointed as the other deputy at the same time. Poor Alan lumbered with us both I'm afraid.

I wrote the proposal to become a Beacon School which was successful, and I consider the work we did then was the best I did at Waddesdon. On the back of it, Alan was invited to meet Prince Charles at Highgrove and I was invited to No. 10 to meet Tony Blair. Becoming a 'Leading Edge' school followed and it was nice to end my career with the inspection that gave us our 'outstanding' status.

I became a school governor five years ago, with three as Chair. I will see out my term and then fade away gracefully!!

After leaving Loughborough as a PE and Geography teacher, I spent three years in New Malden (south London) at an all-boys secondary modern led by an exceptional head teacher who confirmed my view that the 11+ does not define an individual's capability.

Anyway, after three years, all three of us in our Surbiton flat applied for jobs overseas. One ended up in British Columbia, one in Chile, and I went to Kenya where I spent five happy years teaching and coaching athletics.

My claim to fame while

in Kenya was that the Olympic Gold Medallist in the 3,000m Steeplechase in Mexico came from my school and went on the win a bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh two years later. I also organised and led a month-long athletics tour for some 50 Kenyan youngsters which included a fixture at Crystal Palace against the South of England.

I was offered a post, sponsored by Coca Cola, to become a full-time athletics coach but turned it down for family reasons – a decision we both later regretted!



This picture shows the view of Mt Kenya from our back garden when we lived in Nanyuki ... not a view you easily forget! The Equator runs about two hundred yards into the photograph.

from Little Acorns



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation,

which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a



network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

The school received a Platinum Jubilee oak tree a couple of weeks ago which has now been planted by Year 11 CoPE students, who had to take some time away from their busy mock exam schedule.

Students and staff at Waddesdon are committed to supporting the 'Queen's Green Canopy' project and hope to continue to plant trees around the school site to ensure a greener, more sustainable future!

GOODBYE and Thank You

We bid a fond farewell and best wishes to all staff who are leaving Waddesdon this term.



Mrs Hassard



Ms Gaind



Ms De Souza



Mr Woodward



Mr Rizvi



Mr Cross



Miss Churchill



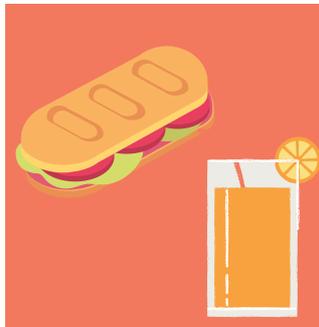
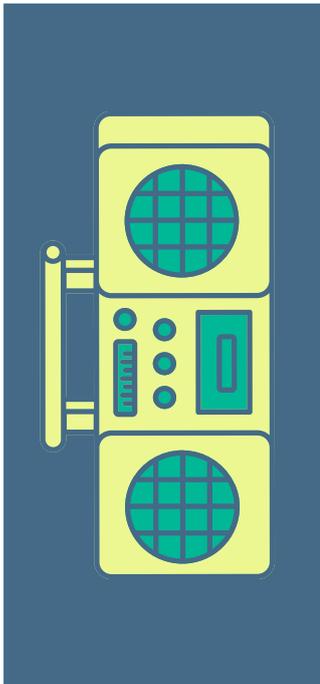
Mrs Howitt



A fun group for young people in school years 7-11 with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities to develop a range of new skills.

What will I do at the group?

- Make friends
- Have fun trying new activities
- Build your confidence
- Share your ideas to improve activities and support for young people
- Enjoy tasty refreshments!



The group runs once a month from Sept 2021
4:30pm-6:30pm.
Find your local group -

Castlefield Family Centre, High Wycombe
Amersham Family Centre
Berryfields Family Centre, Aylesbury



Contact for more information -
shoutoutforSEND@buckinghamshire.gov.uk 01296 382583

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The Governing Body takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. More information regarding Waddesdon CE School safeguarding can be obtained through our policies section of our website.

