



All
TOGETHER
Now

Summer 2022



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WADDESDON

Voice
magazine

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About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 7's Theo and Kain enjoying the party atmosphere at Waddfest '22. There's a full write up and pictures from our annual community festival on pages 14 and 15.



From the Headteacher

This time last year we were only just emerging from the 'bubbles' imposed on us by the pandemic. Our vibrant school community had been reduced to zones of study for different year groups and separate areas for socializing. We had three different lunch breaks and at times it felt more like a penitentiary, than a school, in the words of one witty Year 11 student. Although I wouldn't have quite put it like that myself, I can see the point she was making.

A year on, the school is well on the way to being its old self, with our community values to the fore.

This edition of the Voice celebrates the restoration of the Waddesdon Way

and the importance of community. Taking the last two weeks as a powerful example, we have come together for Waddfest, Sports Day and an 'Is There a God' enquiry week, hearing from five expert speakers. These enriching and stimulating activities just weren't possible a year ago; they encapsulate our desire that our students will be able to experience "life in all its fullness" in their time at Waddesdon.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped enable our school community to flourish this year. Our community partnerships stretch to parents from the different diverse communities we serve; to local churches, the Diocese of Oxford and the Church of England



Matthew Abbott

education board; to employers and local stakeholders; and, this year in particular, to the Rothschild Foundation and Waddesdon Manor.

To those students and staff who are leaving this year, we say 'thank you' for the parts you have played during your time at Waddesdon. As it says in our Ofsted report from this year, "The school is a very special community.' Let's keep it that way.

GOODBYE AND

Thank You

Our sincerest thanks and best wishes to go the members of staff leaving Waddesdon at the end of this term.



Mr Jones



Mrs Sexton



Miss Smith



Mrs Cullen



Miss Burns



Miss Crofts



Miss Field



Mr Pocklington



Mr Kellett



Mrs Hobbs



Joining the FAMILY

Our Ukrainian students have had a little time to get to know us and our school, and to become part of the Waddesdon family. Year 10's Volodymyr and Year 12's Toma have told us how they are settling in and finding their feet.

Waddesdon school has a lot of distinguishing, and at the same time interesting, differences from our school in Ukraine.

We liked this school from our first meeting with Mr. Abbott. All teachers are very kind to us, and they all do their best to help us with our study. We feel

huge support from all of them. For us it was very unexpected that we were so warmly welcomed, and pupils helped us find our way in Waddesdon school very easily and fast.

Also, it is very cool that we can choose subjects that we want to study. This is a very good system because we study what we are

interested in, and we improve our best sides. It was unusual for us that pupils can study subjects like Business, Food Science and Nutrition and Philosophy because in Ukraine we do not have these subjects.

We like that every single morning starts with assembly, where we find

out a lot of interesting information and talk about different problems that we need to discuss.

At the end, we want to say that we are happy to study at Waddesdon School. We really enjoy being here with these very talented people around us.





From the Chaplain

"He says 'I will be with you.' That makes all the difference for me - I hope it does for you."

Our Chaplain, Phil White, explains that when we have to face our fears, or experience change in our lives, it is our faith that gives us strength.

As I write this it's only a few weeks away from the end of the term - can't wait for some holiday - this year has been quite a year!

Yesterday we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary - where has the time gone? This Friday we are going to Italy for a very special celebratory holiday with our whole family. The only trouble is that my wife,

Anne, hates flying, but I love it!

I'm reminded of a story in the Old Testament of the Bible - the bit before Jesus was born. In the book of Joshua it tells the next bit of the story of the Israelites. Moses has led the people out of slavery in Egypt - this is at the time that the pyramids were built and it's probably in the time of the Pharaoh King Ramesses II (1304-1214BC). They had then wandered in the desert for 40 years!!

Anyway, Joshua is taking over the leadership of the people and they are about to cross the River Jordan into the new land. As you can imagine, the people are pretty anxious - will the people be friendly, will they be welcomed - there were over a million of them by the way!

When Joshua takes over the leadership God says simply, "Be strong and courageous". How on earth do you do that when you're facing a big challenge?

I guess that many of you are facing big challenges as well - for Years 11 and 13 there are the obvious new things to face - a new career or job, university or college ... For the rest of us, we're all going to face challenges and become fearful - that's life.



Ramesses II

There's a bit more that God says that just ticks the box for me - He says, "I will be with you". That makes all

the difference for me - I hope it does for you.

When you're facing challenging circumstances, (and the majority of people would admit to praying in those situations), remember that God promises to be with us. It's one of the key things that's promised in the New Testament as well and it's a major part of my faith. What about you?

I hope you all have a very safe and fun summer.

DON'T FORGET THE QR CODES!

Many of our pages have QR codes printed on them. You can scan these to access additional online content, like image galleries and videos, so don't forget to look out for them!



YFC band, The Sense, visited the school recently. As well as playing a concert, they gave our students the benefit of their experience, teaching them about both performance and sound production. Year 9's Matty spent the day around the band.



THE SENSE came into our school for a full day, beginning with an assembly that made sure we were all very much awake. We learnt who they were and what they did, which included the fact that they travel to different schools and share their faith through music.

Later, they headed up our music tech lesson, where their sound girl, Joy taught us about setting up a music mixing desk for live settings which is quite different from a studio set-up. I had the opportunity to mix for their band in the studio with a few of my friends. This was a great experience and taught me some new skills.

Later, at lunch, they performed some taster

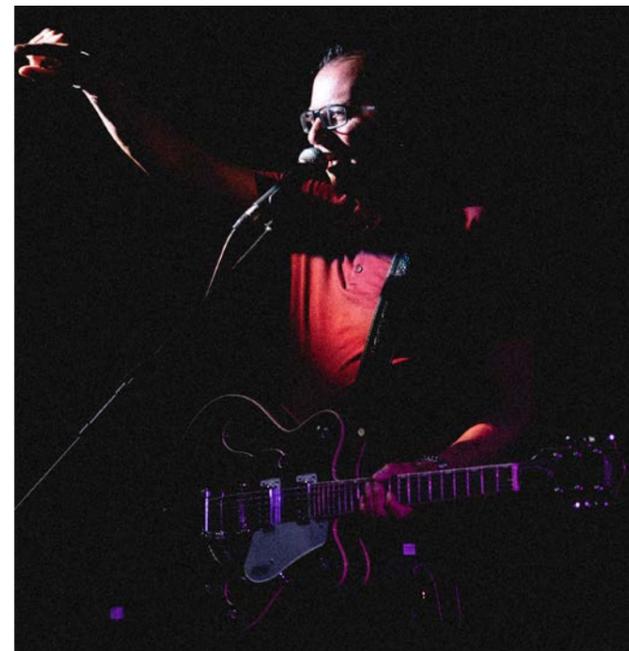
songs to advertise their evening gig. This was a good opportunity to hear more and was an exciting atmosphere to experience during a normal school day.

THE SENSE finished their time with us with a huge evening gig that was open to all. The music included original songs and some more well known. They gave the us opportunity to dance and enjoy the music. Some band members also shared their testimonies, which meant that they told us about who God was to them and how they came to have a relationship with Him. During the evening, they allowed Evy (from Year 11) and Martha (from Year 12) also to perform, accompanied by Waddesdon's very own

and talented Mr Judson. They did an amazing job, and their performances were flawless.

The evening was loud, bright and one to remember. I feel privileged that I was able

to be involved, to learn from the team and to enjoy their talents. I am hopeful we will have a similar band invited to the school again as it was such a great opportunity and experience.





Year 8's Harry, who is a wheelchair user, attended the Wheelpower wheelchair awareness day recently, which gave him the chance to share a little of his daily experience with his fellow students.

WHEEL Life

A group of friends from Year 8 and I went to a wheelchair awareness day hosted by Wheelpower at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. We did various activities including wheelchair basketball, sit-down volleyball and boccia. It gave the other students an opportunity to see what life is like for me in a wheelchair. (My favourite part of the day was watching Miss Breith fall down lots of times in sit-down volleyball!)

Harry

The Wheelpower experience is one we will never forget! It gave us a very small taster of the difficulties some face on a daily basis, not to mention the immeasurable enjoyment we had playing wheelchair sports.

We went as a small group to the Guttman/Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury (home of the Paralympic Games) along with our classmate who uses a wheelchair, to try different sports with him,

one of which he plays regularly.

We played wheelchair basketball, wheelchair badminton, seated volleyball and seated boccia. This eye-opening experience gave us a new outlook on these traditional sports which we have played in the past, making the day even more enjoyable. Our muscles were aching the next day as we had to use different muscle groups from normal and to concentrate on

moving in different ways to play the sports. We had to understand the constraints of reliance on a wheelchair and the impact of having to sit down all the time.

Our appreciation for anyone who has to use a wheelchair was greatly enhanced and we would certainly recommend this experience to anybody who hasn't tried it before.

Tom & Megan



Our Year 12 Biology students travelled to the coast of North Wales to study the local ecosystem. Ceris tells us more about what they found, measured and recorded.

Shore THING



After waking up at 6am and sleeping on a coach for five and a half hours, my fellow A-Level Biology students and I arrived at Rhyd-y-creuau, North Wales. We began our trip by walking down to the river in our matching waterproofs and wellies to investigate the number of organisms in the fast and slow flowing parts of the river using a whole range of new equipment.

Later, we returned to the field centre and inspected the different organisms we caught under a microscope and visualiser. These ranged from mayfly nymph to freshwater shrimp. After dinner, we went back into the classroom and analysed the data we had collected

using statistical tests, and then we all left for our free time. During this time, we sat outside socialising with the other schools that were there, and it was lights out at 11pm.

On the second day, we headed straight to the classroom after breakfast so our tutors could brief us on our upcoming day's activity on the sand dunes. We all took a coach over to the beach to measure succession, which is a long process in which a species occupies a certain area. We used a specific quadrat to measure and record the biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors. For example, we discovered that the dunes closer to the sea were covered

mainly by grass as they were more exposed to strong winds and the tide, whereas the dunes furthest away from the sea were predominantly covered in flowers due to them being blocked by the taller dunes, preventing the wind from having as big an impact.

Day three started the same, with a briefing and introduction in the morning and then we drove to the rocky shores. Here we were investigating how the size of limpets differs depending on how close to the tide line they are located. We used ranging poles and a metre ruler to set out our area and we looked at the upper shore and mid shore. Using

callipers, we measured the height and width of any limpets we could find within our set area and then recorded it.

We found that the limpets from the upper shore were typically taller and thinner as they were not as likely to have been disturbed by the tide. However, the limpets located on the mid shore were wider because they needed a larger surface area to ensure they had a better grip, so the tide didn't knock them off.

We later went into a small café and treated ourselves to hot snacks and milkshakes before returning to the centre to complete more data analysis and to say

goodbye to the people in the other school.

On our final day we set off down to the woodland area where we were using quadrats to look at the percentage cover of moss and lichen on randomly sampled trees. We did this by throwing a stick and choosing the tree it was pointing to, then we put a 100 square quadrat onto the tree and counted how many squares had moss in them and recorded that as a percentage. We repeated this four times, moving up the tree, and saw that the percentage cover of moss decreases the higher up a tree you go. We got back to the centre

for 12:00 and set off home at 12:30, with an essential stop at Burger King. And with that our trip came

to an end; not only did this visit leave a mark on all of us in many different ways, it taught us team

skills and communication and it brought us all closer together.



Award-Winning BIOLOGISTS

This term Waddesdon Biology students have taken part in UK Biology Competitions for the first time. These competitions involve students completing a one-hour online test under exam conditions. Questions are based on the curriculum but also rewards students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of biological items in the news and having a general knowledge of the biological world around them.

Year 9 Separate Science students competed in the Biology Challenge alongside over 41,000 students from 550 schools worldwide. We are delighted that 5

of our students achieved commended or highly commended certificates. A special congratulations must go to John Itskos who has achieved a Silver Award!

Year 12 Biologists competed in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad this term, against 12,500 students from 600 schools. Of the 34 students that took part from Waddesdon, 10 have been awarded certificates. A huge well done to Brynn and Lewis for achieving Bronze Awards and Reuben and Juliette who have both been awarded Silver Awards. These achievements can be used in their university applications and we look forward to seeing what they can achieve in the Biology Olympiad next year!



It's never too early to talk about Christmas... so say the Waddesdon Manor Learning Team!

This year Waddesdon Manor are working with artist Michelle Dufaur, who will be creating 5 large-scale woodland animal lanterns as part of the Christmas display along Miss Alice's Drive. Our Year 9 GCSE Art students were invited to be involved in this exciting project and took part in a workshop, led by Michelle herself, creating artwork that will adorn these magical lanterns.

All the students got to work, using their drawing and mark-making skills to decorate lantern paper with the fauna and flora that thrive on oak trees, the central theme for this project. They produced some wonderful results and we cannot wait to see their artwork on these large lanterns, nestled in the woodland during the Christmas display at the end of the year.



Creating Christmas



GLORIOUS



Our GreenPower racing team, the Waddesdon Warriors, finally unleashed their challenger at glorious Goodwood, in the glorious May sunshine. Year 8's Sophie and Tom tell us about a day to remember.

In May, our GreenPower team went for our first race; at Goodwood, a long distance for some. It was a great experience for everyone, getting to see all the models and designs of different schools' cars and what they'd built for that race. As it was our first race, most of us had pre-racing nerves until we got onto the track and found out it was the best thing ever and all of us wanted to have another go.

As well as it being our first go at racing, it was also our first chance to see how our car performed on the track. It was a lot faster than any of us expected, managing to reach up to 24 mph, which was a lot for a little car like ours.

The Goodwood racetrack overall was a lovely circuit with nice view, and luckily

for us that day we had good weather. Our least favourite part of the whole day was having to wake up at around 3-4 o'clock in the morning, the worst feeling ever, though most of us woke up a bit more and gained more energy as the race went on.

When we arrived, it wasn't just straight to racing; there was a procedure that everyone had to follow. At around 7 o'clock everyone had 2 hours to prepare for everything and then all the action began at 9 o'clock with the warm-up.

The Goodwood experience is one that the team will never forget. The 2.4 mile-long track really opened our eyes to the racing life. Racing against the other 96 cars in our category, we came to have a new insight into how further experiences were going to



pan out. The long track was filled with twists and turns and there was the occasional sight of a plane going around.

After the 9am warm up, our batteries were fully charged and our motor was ready to go. We raced. At the end of our first ninety-minute race, the engine ran hot and the batteries were flat. After changing the batteries, we had some time to watch the other race over lunch. The 16+ category had 30 racers, and the excitement of seeing the different car designs inspired us to make changes to improve our own car.

Then it was time for race two. Months of blood, sweat and tears would now be put to the ultimate test. With our motor cooled (by use of a water bottle), and with fully charged batteries, it was time for the final race. The hot sun beat down on us, reminding us that this was the moment when our fervid preparation would come to fruition.

The frantic second race was a memorable experience after perfecting our quick change-overs. Time and again the drivers charged into the pits, allowing for others to have their chance at glory. After a long ninety minutes, race day was over and it was time to pack up. Thanks to Mr Peck, we will treasure this wonderful experience forever with top quality pictures.

Many thanks to the parents for transporting

the students to the venue, and special thanks to Mr Morrand for helping us, especially in the pits and with changeovers; his contribution was deeply appreciated. Also, many thanks to all of our sponsors; without you we would never have been able to glimpse race day, let alone take part in it. We would also like to give particular thanks to Mr Weaver, our D and T technician, for figuring out solutions to so many problems that we had along the way. He has supported and remained confident in all of us since we started this project.

At the end of the day we found out the results of the race. We won Best Newcomer and came 34th out of 96, beating AGS by one place (better luck next time)! This was an unforgettable experience that we will cherish forever.





In early July, the Art department welcomed members of the School Councils of Waddesdon Primary & Haydon Abbey Primary to an exciting cyanotype and monoprinting workshop.

Cyanotype is a negative photographic process: the areas where light does not hit sensitized material will remain white. There were a few tense moments just before students arrived during an unexpected torrential downpour, but luckily the sun appeared just at the right moment

and the objects carefully arranged by the pupils developed beautifully on the sensitised paper.

Whilst this was happening, pupils engaged in a printing process, monoprinting, which is a form of printmaking that allows the creation of unique,

freeform printed images, relying on careful mark making. All pupils created beautiful images to take away from the session.

The workshop was a joy to run, the pupils were amazing and totally engaged in every aspect.



RIDING High

Our equestrian team have been in action recently. They had the amazing opportunity of riding at Hickstead, where they placed 7th overall. Then they competed at Bury Farm where they showed very strongly indeed. Year 7's Freya tells us more.



Photo: www.spidge.co.uk

On 9th July the Waddesdon Secondary School showjumping team competed at Bury Farm, along with other schools from Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Our final team in the 90 consisted of Coco, Sophia S, Annabel and me (Freya). These were some amazing rounds and we won another team 1st! Sophia S collected an individual 2nd on Tarzan!

with Patch looking tiny compared to some of the big horses in that class.

Everyone should be really pleased, as Waddesdon absolutely smashed it, placing in every single class, despite the super hot conditions that day.

rosettes and grassroots qualifications for the 60 and 70.

Our next competition is during the summer holidays. We hope to get more team members next year so if you are interested please contact Mr Kennedy.

Our first team was in the 60 which involved: Ava, Eleni, Alisha S and Sophia S. The team stormed round despite the super high temperatures, picking up a 1st place! Not only that, but Sophia and her pony, Fifi, won individually, which was no surprise due to how speedy they were!

Finally I entered individually in the 1m class and took a 3rd place,

We took home many

Our next team was in the 70, with Ava, Eleni, Alisha S and Annabel getting a team 3rd.

For the 80, Coco and Sophia S went round as individuals, with Coco and her pony placing 2nd!





Our whole-school festival, Waddfest, was back bigger and better than ever this year. Year 9's Mark was involved, and even won an achievement award on the night. He fills us in on this exciting event.

The sun was blazing hot and all three stages (Big Stage, Dance Stage and Acoustic Stage) were set as the Performing Arts Department welcomed over 700 parents and pupils to WaddFest 2022. This year WaddFest aimed to broaden its horizons by bringing together the whole school community, representing our diverse student body and showcasing the best of what the school has to offer.

In the 'Food Court', there was cuisine from around the world on sale, including Caribbean, Ghanaian, Chinese, Ukrainian and Indian food, as well as a classic British BBQ and cakes. There was also a tin can alley, "Science VS Food", the GreenPower electric car, face painting, Photo Booth an Art Gallery, penalty shoot-out and a quiet zone. The ice cream van had a steady stream of customers all evening, with everyone

soaking up the sunshine, and the great atmosphere was felt by all.

The set lists on both music stages featured students from right across the school, including our GCSE & Sixth Form Music students, KS3 Young Musician of the Year winners, the Funk Band, Samba Band, Worship Band, Junior Choir and Chamber Orchestra. We also welcomed back past students who had left us during lockdown and the renowned staff band made their annual appearance, to great reception. The Dance Stage was packed during each of the three performances and all performers did an awesome job.

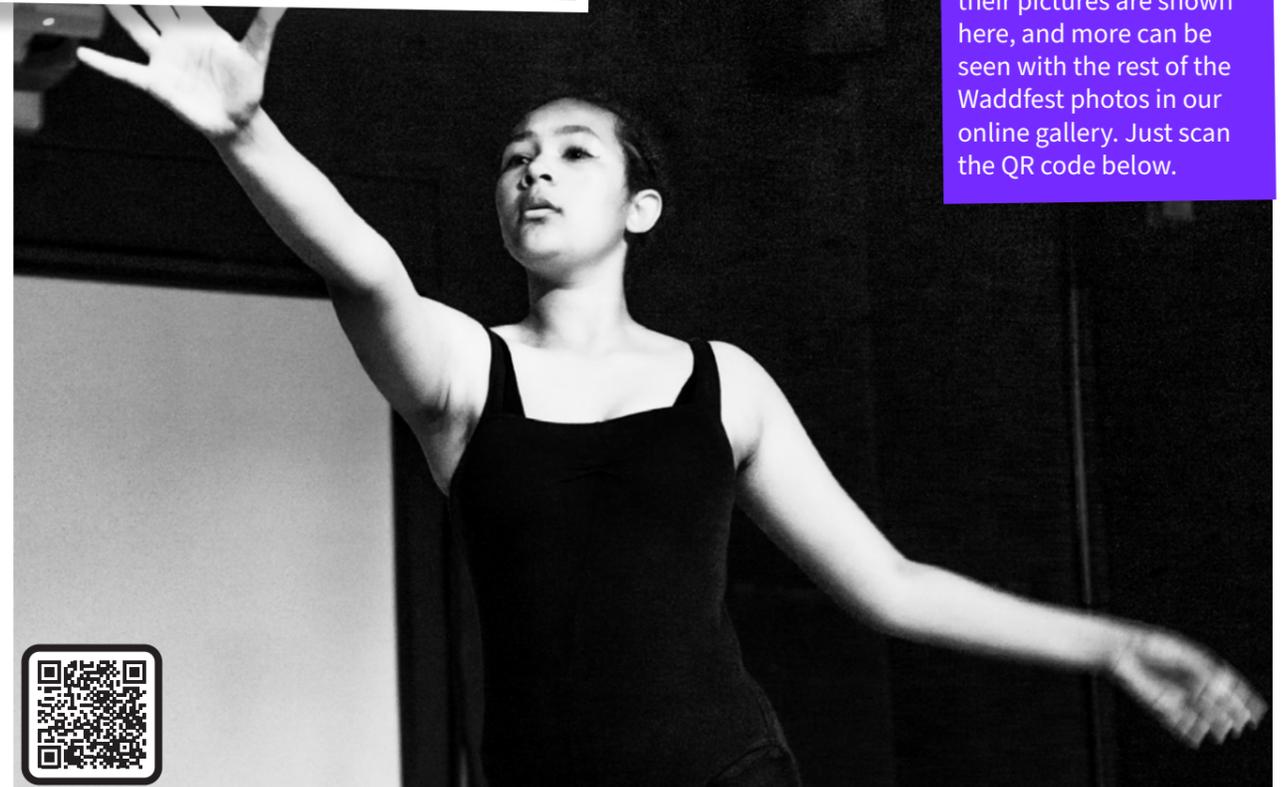
On the day of the festival, thanks to the effort put in by the Performing Arts Department, the stage was built and ready with instruments before school



Picture by Caleb



Picture by Cara



had finished. After the bell, the sound checking began and I was able to work with Mr Judson's good friend, Jurrie, who kindly lent us all of the equipment for the two sound systems. After getting the levels right, the school prepared for the gates to open.

The festival warmed up quickly as people began to arrive, with summer anthems playing them in. Year 10 kicked off the music on the Big Stage, as well as dancing in the Drama Studio and Evy on the Acoustic Stage.

As the evening went on, many penalties were taken, Nerf guns were fired, food was devoured and superb music played the night away. Before the headline act, Mr Judson and Miss Turner announced this year's awards. Lily Tomson's drumming

and involvement in extra-curricular activities gave her the award of Best Newcomer, I was given an award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community for my technical support work in shows, gigs and assemblies and Bea Dempsey won the Performing Arts Award, a prize for a Year 11 or 13 leaver who has demonstrated sustained excellence and commitment in the Performing Arts faculty.

The Funk Band closed the festival with three incredible songs and that was it! An amazing event and something everyone who was there will remember for a long time to come.

Our student photographers, Caleb (Yr12) and Cara (Yr 10) did a fantastic job as part of the photography team at Waddfest. Some of their pictures are shown here, and more can be seen with the rest of the Waddfest photos in our online gallery. Just scan the QR code below.



Waddesdon's Activity Days saw our students enjoying events both inside and outside the school. First, Cara tells us about Year 10's team-building fun and games.

On Friday 10th June, Year 10 participated in a day of team building activities provided by the company WISE UP. With the weather on our side, we were put into teams of 9-10 and we had to complete a series of tasks which tested us in ways we did not expect. Once we had completed a task, we had to score ourselves on how we felt we had done whilst participating in the task. The instructors from WISE UP were amazing; they were very helpful and got us to think about things in a way that we hadn't before.

At the start of the day many of the teams were struggling to work together and listen to each other. There were several disagreements and a lack of coordination. However,

as the day progressed the teams gradually began to trust and listen to one another, so by the end of the day the teams were united and much more successful.

There was an impressive selection of activities in which to take part, such as 'Sheep and Shepherd', which involved one team member as the shepherd in a box and the rest of the team blindfolded as sheep. The shepherd had to direct the sheep into the pen without talking. We had to use non-verbal signals like clapping, clicking and whistling. It was one of the best tasks because it allowed people who we didn't expect to be leaders to have the chance to really shine.

The day was a valuable learning experience. It gave people who don't usually talk to each other an opportunity to get to know each other and communicate in ways we wouldn't normally.

This is what some of the Year 10 students had to say about the day:



"We really valued getting to know other people we usually don't work with and to see what aspects they could bring to the group work."

"I liked that we got to work with people that we don't normally get to and have conversations. It was a good social experiment."



For their activity, the Year 8s went camping in Marlow. As Fifo and Lydia explain, there was in-tents excitement!

Year 8 Camp 2022: what an adventure! We gained lots of new friendships with our peers and had a great time getting to know our instructors.

One of the activities we did was paddle-boarding, where we had to complete several different challenges. There was a lot of falling into the river Thames!

Raft building demanded lots of concentration and communication, while kayaking needed a lot of arm strength and involved a lot of shivering for some of us who had started to

run out of dry clothes.

Camping proved to be quite the stressful experience. After taking what seemed like hours to fall asleep at night, some of us woke at 4am. With it being so bright and not having our phones with us, we thought it was about 8 o'clock and emerged ready for breakfast. Poor Mrs Cook! She came out of her tent to encourage us back into our own tents, confused as to why all these teenagers were awake so early.

We're so glad we all went to Camp. Having the whole year group there was fantastic and a lot of bonding went on. The activities were brilliant too.





Our Year 7s spent Activity Day exploring Whipsnade Zoo and seeing the incredible animals. Seth reflects on a day of discovery.

At the beginning of June, Year 7 went on their first trip as a year group. The Science Department arranged to take us to Whipsnade Zoo to observe different animal habitats to help with a science project.

As we got to school, we sat down in our form rooms and waited for our form tutor to tell us what to do next. Everyone was excited and looking forward to the day ahead. We all travelled by coach, which took about

an hour. The journey was quite loud and very hot, but at least it wasn't raining!

Upon arrival, we got back in our form groups and headed off to see the animals. We saw the tigers first; one was sunbathing on a wooden platform. There was a pond, trees, and some large rocks inside the enclosure. Next, we saw the rhinos, they were HUGE! This particular breed was called the greater one-horned

rhinoceros. Unfortunately, we discovered they are endangered due to poaching.

Although the rhinos were big, the elephants were even bigger! Did you know they usually weigh 4000-6000 kilograms? That is the equivalent of ten lorries! They were eating their lunch, which was hay in large nets suspended in the air, stretching their trunks up high to reach it.

Next, we headed inside to where the insects, amphibians and arachnids live. We saw poisonous dart frogs; they are only two inches long, yet have enough poison to kill ten men! There were also massive spiders...most of the girls were scared.

As the day went on, we saw so many animals,

including alligators, brown bears, and chimpanzees. My favourite enclosure was the chimpanzees'. They had a swimming pool, sand pit, and a humongous climbing frame. Despite that, one of the chimpanzees looked bored and miserable, which shows that these enclosures are no match for their natural habitats.

We went to Whipsnade to help us with our science project, which is to create an animal enclosure using a shoe box and other materials. I have chosen to do a chimpanzee enclosure, as in my opinion theirs was the most interesting to look at.

We enjoyed our trip to Whipsnade Zoo. It was a fun day out, and we got to see a lot of animal enclosures to help inspire our projects.



ACTIVITY DAYS

My time in the Christian Ethos Group has been so interesting. I was invited into the group by Mr Dangana, along with a few other classmates and, if I'm honest, I didn't really think that it'd be that good!

However, I have found that this is quite the opposite. The group has interested me so much and at each meeting I enjoy participating in the discussions. The group's core values are based around providing spiritual nourishment for everybody at this school, whether they come from backgrounds of faith or not. We have a wide range of members, ranging from staff and governors (Mr Abbott included), students like myself or sometimes outside visitors (for example, Kalyn Mallard was present last time, representing the CofE Education Office).

We meet at least once a term to improve things in school and also to take forward those things that we've discussed previously. As a person who is not entirely sure of her faith, I've been able to think so deeply about my beliefs as well as the school's inclusivity and support for wellbeing.

I have managed to find a safe space that is so welcoming and is full of people that allow my voice to be heard, which I find quite empowering. We discuss all matters large and small, from survey results, exciting events, including from "Is



Year 7's Penny explains the Christian Ethos Group's mission; to provide for the spiritual needs of everyone at Waddesdon, whatever their belief.

There A God (ITAG)", the amazing band, The Sense, to sacred spaces and prayer time in assembly each day.

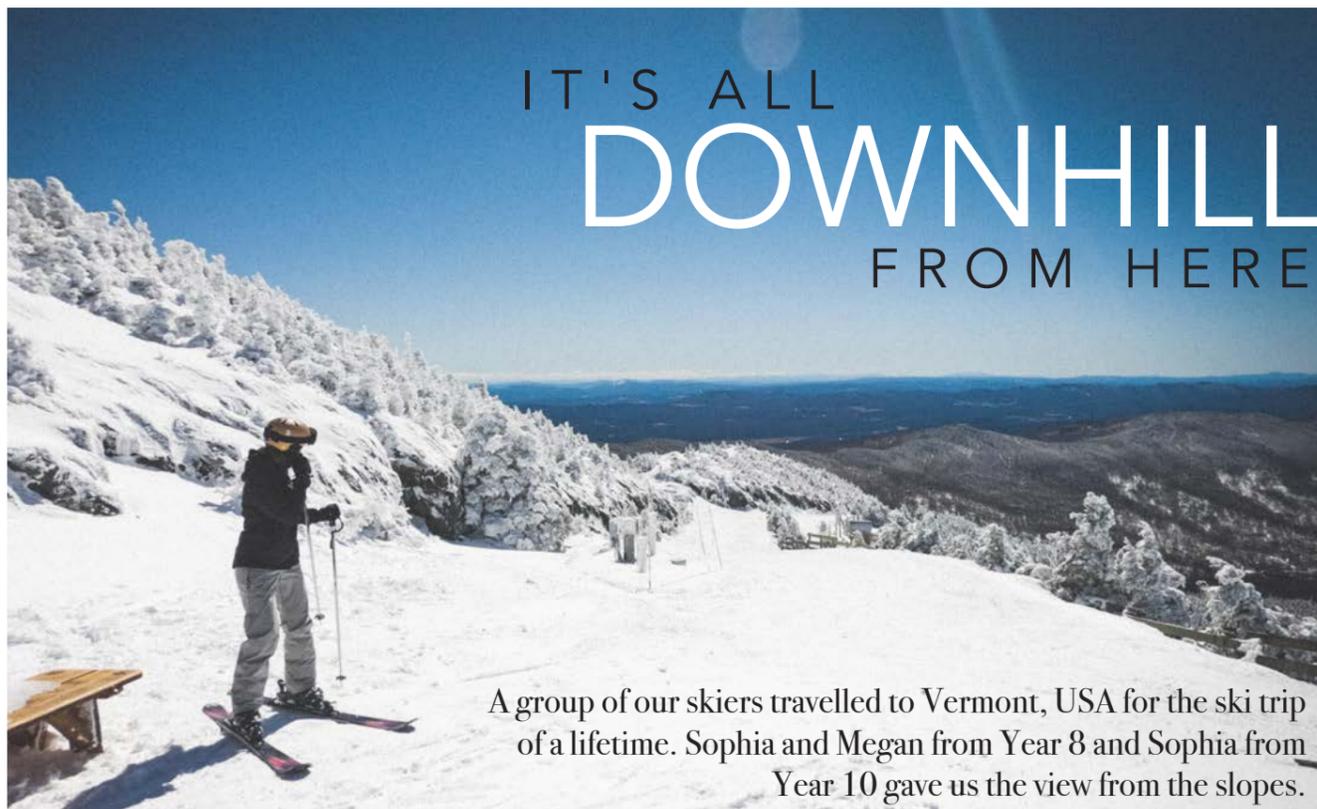
Focusing on the ITAG week, Sam McKee, Director of Youth for Christ, has put together an interesting week when students will be invited to put questions to visitors coming into school. This will give students an amazing

opportunity to voice their ideas and queries about faith, inspired by some prestigious speakers.

We have decided that the next Christian art project will be to try and transform a part of the library into a sacred space for those who wish to pray, but do not get the chance to do so. We have also decided to re-do a survey completed by students to end the year,

to see how a year after lockdown has changed students' views on faith and prayer.

Perhaps we won't find an immediate solution to all our issues that we discuss, but between all of the members, we try to make a large, positive impact in our school community, for those of all faiths and none.



IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE

A group of our skiers travelled to Vermont, USA for the ski trip of a lifetime. Sophia and Megan from Year 8 and Sophia from Year 10 gave us the view from the slopes.

The ski trip to Jay Peak in Vermont was a trip of a lifetime. For me there was nothing better than feeling the freedom as I skied down the slopes halfway round the world.

As we set off from Waddesdon at 2am, I felt very excited but also nervous about what was my first trip abroad without my family. After a quick stop in Dublin, we

continued to Boston and travelled the final four hours of the journey by coach to Jay Peak. As we arrived at Jay Peak, which borders Canada, the resort was surrounded by snow topped mountains, and I was so excited to think about skiing down them.

I shared my room with three friends. We spent 5 hours each day skiing with our instructor Ski Li, but his

real name was Eli and was lots of fun. We skied down lots of runs and he would try to throw snowballs at us. I managed to get my own back and got a snowball down his neck. Throughout the trip we laughed so much and really got to know some Year 10s and 11s.

In the evening we were able to swim and ride in the resort's aquatic centre,

watch an ice hockey game as well as use the indoor climbing centre and retro games. On the way back to Boston, we stopped in New Hampshire to shop and soak up the culture. When I got home, I was really tired from all the skiing but thought it was a brilliant experience and my first taste of independence.

Sophia D

Despite the early start, the journey, my first flying experience, was great. Jay Peak was very big and looked amazing.

The hotel rooms were cosy, and the food was brilliant, especially the bacon, pancakes and maple syrup which we had every morning.

I took some ski lessons before the trip, but the instructors were great, and so my skiing improved immensely. I skied from the top of the mountain on the second day.

The water park was immense, and the rock climbing was nerve-racking but excellent fun. The ice hockey game was exhilarating and we cheered for both teams. The trip to Boston and shopping was amazing. As Mr Mac put it, "It's Bicester Village on steroids".

The journey back was great but sadly the week was over too quickly. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I would love to go again.

Megan

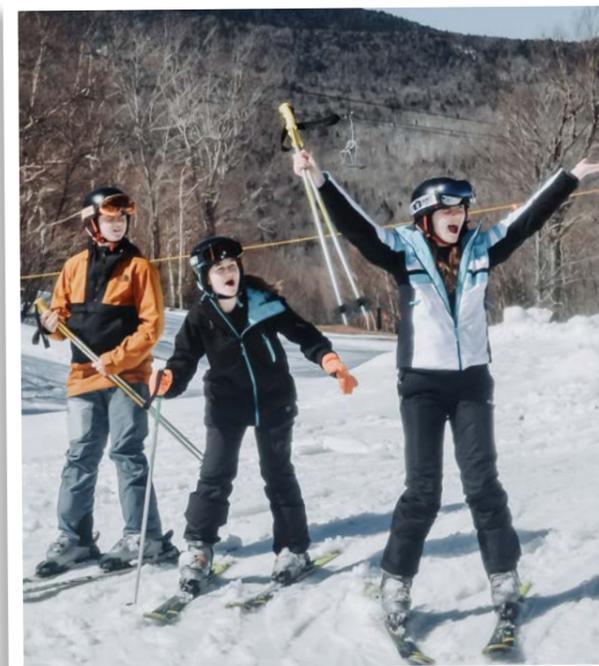
Finally being able to step off the plane in Boston was such a big relief. From booking onto the trip 3 years ago it was definitely worth the wait.

I think my favourite part of the trip has to be the skiing. It catered for all abilities and as an experienced skier, there was so much for our group to have fun with, including lots of black slopes.

Another thing I really enjoyed was the food! In particular breakfast, there were so many options for scrambled eggs, sausages, pancakes or toast. Perfect way to fill you up for a day's skiing.

The ski trip is in my opinion one of the best trips. It offers a fun holiday with your friends in a gorgeous resort, with skiing in the sun and exciting activities in the evening like rock climbing or an ice hockey game. I urge anyone who has the opportunity to go. I loved it and I'm sure everyone on this year's trip could say the same!

Sophia S





Ich Bin Ein Berliner!

Our Year 10 History Students recently took a trip to Berlin. Millie shares what they learned about the incredible history and culture of the city.

I recently travelled, along with 34 other Year 10s, to Berlin, the capital city of Germany. We were so fortunate to experience so much in just four days, like amazing historical buildings, memorials and museums. It was an incredible opportunity which we are all hugely grateful for, particularly as not many of us have had the opportunity to travel recently due to the pandemic.

Day one included travelling and a city tour. After two long coach rides and a plane flight, we still had several hours of the day left, so we embarked on an exciting city tour. On just the first afternoon we saw so many interesting parts of the city. This included the TV Tower, the tallest building in the European

Union built by Communists in East Germany in 1965. We also saw St Mary's Church, the oldest active church in Germany, as well as Lustgarten, a public park in Alexanderplatz with an impressively large stone bowl made with only one huge piece of stone. All this in just one afternoon and we still had three days to go!

On Saturday we visited the famous Olympic Stadium, the Reichstag, Palace of Tears and Bebelplatz. Bebelplatz is a square in Berlin where the Nazi book burning took place, which has a memorial to the many authors whose works were destroyed. It's called the Sunken Library and consists of many empty shelves beneath the ground, with a glass window to look through.

The empty bookshelves represent all the books that had been destroyed. I found this memorial particularly fascinating and moving because it's so simple yet creative.

The Reichstag was yet another unmissable opportunity. After a picnic in front of the amazing

building – the German equivalent of our Houses of Parliament – we explored the amazing building. On top of the Reichstag is a large glass dome, a more modern addition to the building with a path twisting around the inside. This enables visitors to climb to the top of the dome, see awesome city



views and learn about its history and architecture. It's designed to be an environmentally and energy efficient structure, with a gap in the top of the dome for hot air to escape, as well as a large cone in the centre covered with reflective mirrors. This collects any rainwater which is used elsewhere, and the mirrors reflect the sunlight, meaning less artificial lighting is used.

In the last two days we visited several museums presenting Jewish and Cold War German history, as well as the Wall Memorial in Bernauer Strasse and of course, the Ritter Sport Chocolate Shop! I really enjoyed visiting the interactive Spy Museum and seeing the amazing East Side Gallery. It was an amazing exhibition of talent, expressing amazing opinions and ideology, both political

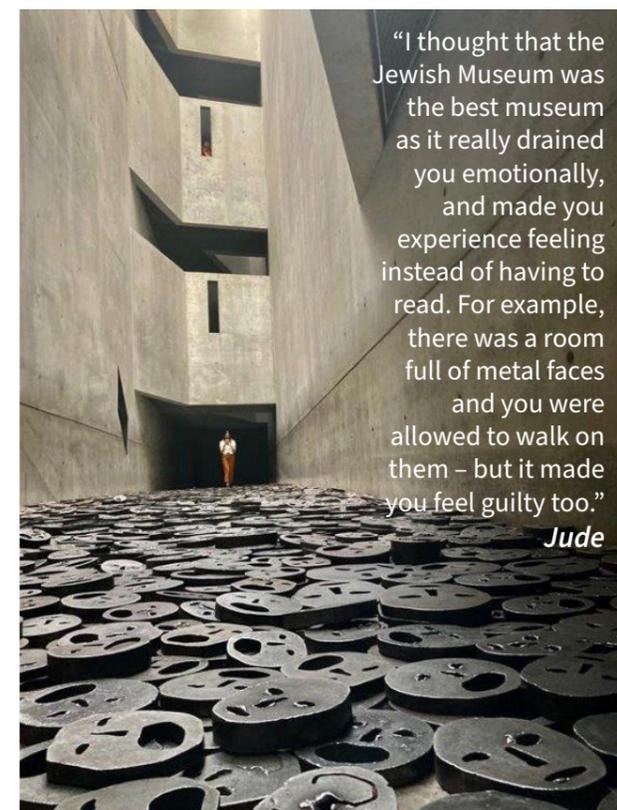
and not. It was fantastic to understand Germany's history close-up, as well as experience new culture, language and responsibilities.

A huge thank you to Mrs Branton, Miss. Caswell and Mr Barrett for accompanying us on our adventure, and a huge thank you to Miss Hoe who organised the entire trip for us. We all hugely appreciate the time you have given up and work you have put in for us.

"The tour of Berlin was my favourite part of the trip because it was a great chance to sightsee, and I really enjoyed walking around the beautiful city. It was a great photo opportunity and my camera roll is filled."

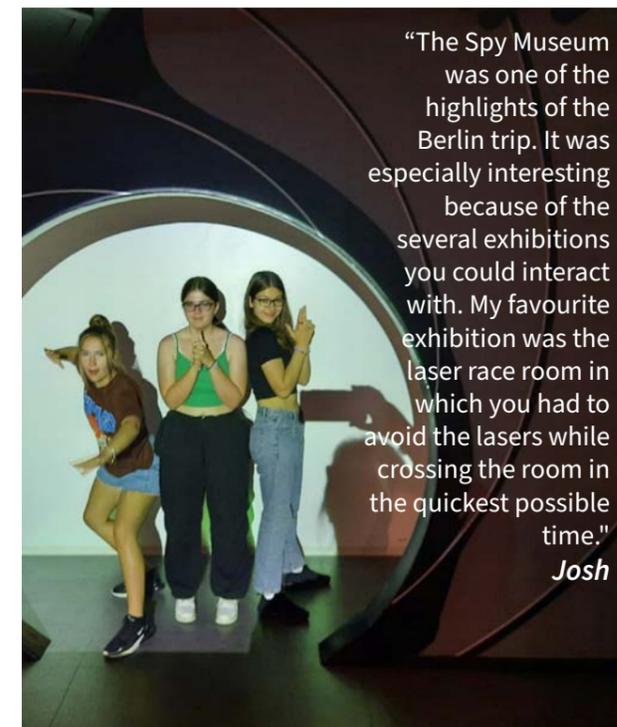
Oliwia

"My favourite part was learning about German life hands on from the



"I thought that the Jewish Museum was the best museum as it really drained you emotionally, and made you experience feeling instead of having to read. For example, there was a room full of metal faces and you were allowed to walk on them – but it made you feel guilty too."

Jude



"The Spy Museum was one of the highlights of the Berlin trip. It was especially interesting because of the several exhibitions you could interact with. My favourite exhibition was the laser race room in which you had to avoid the lasers while crossing the room in the quickest possible time."

Josh

people who experienced it first hand because it taught me about the culture of both sides of my family. It showed me the rich history of my German-Jewish heritage."

Emma

"My favourite part was the interactive museum; I talked to people I'm not necessarily friends with, all whilst learning about what German life was like throughout time. I also liked exploring the different parts of the city."

Sarah

"My favourite part of the Berlin trip was the Spy Museum, and the Jewish Museum because it was a very peaceful, emotional place and it was very interesting to learn about how people were treated/lived in that time."

Lottie

been able to see so much of the outstanding city in the space of four days. Not only was the trip exciting, it was also reflective, educational, and at some points emotional."

Hannah

"The best bit was visiting the Olympic Stadium. We travelled around lots of Berlin and saw the sights, including the amazing art on the Berlin Wall. I also loved visiting the Spy Museum which had not only lots of things to learn but also fun, interactive challenges."

Rebecca

"Berlin was incredible, their architecture, transport system and food was unbelievable. There were so many sites to see, but my favourite part of the trip was the Olympic Stadium and the East Side Gallery."

Charlie

"Berlin was stunning, and I am so grateful to have



Grand SLAM

This term in English 7JDA have been exploring a range of poetic forms, from Haikus to Shakespearean sonnets. The work led up to the class taking part in their very own Poetry Slam. 7JDA's Phoebe has written a poem about the event.



The Poetry Slam was a great success,
Not many students failed to impress.
The judges were each sat on a chair,
Trying their best to always be fair.
Our Sky was up on stage first,
Followed by Eleni and her amazing verse.
There were 9s and 10s all around
And enthusiastic cheers from the awesome crowd.
As you can probably guess, Penny won,
With her poem about all the things love has done.
We mustn't forget Miss Turner's
jaw-dropping performance,
But mainly Penny winning,
as that's the most important.



Readers' Choice

Thanks to Mr Lee and Mrs Staiano, a group of select Year 8 students were given the unique opportunity to explore their love of reading even further with the Carnegie Greenaway Awards. Year 8's Tom tells us more.

The Yoto Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

The students were taking part in the Shadowing Prize which is one of the two

prizes an author can win. The prize was awarded to the author who secured the most votes from the target audience. We read some of the books that we had to read, collectively reading all the books. We then made an informed decision and voted. Each student voted for their favourite book and we went by a majority.

Sadly, the book we chose was not the one that won but we had a brilliant experience debating and discussing our favourite book and further exploring our love of reading and debating.

Many thanks to Mrs Staiano and Mr Lee for making all this possible.



Bellissimo!

A group of our young chefs were given the ultimate lesson in Italian cookery - by going to Italy! Year 10's Charlie and Imy were among those travelling to Sorrento to enjoy a slice of la dolce vita... and a bit of cooking.

This year, after all the restrictions due to Covid, Mrs Watts was able to take Year 10s and 12s to see first hand how Italian delicacies were made. After a morning flight to Naples, with great views of the Alps, we checked into the hotel and jumped in the pool to cool off from the 34 degree heat.

On the first day, we took a hydrofoil to Capri, before taking a private boat tour around the island, which allowed us to see all the caves and clear, turquoise waters. The next day, we put our cooking skills to the test, making gnocchi and pizza dough and seeing how ricotta and mozzarella were made at a local family farm. On the last day, we were able to see the iconic town of

Pompeii and climb to the top of Mount Vesuvius in order to peer into the huge crater.

Overall, everyone had an amazing time and it was a fantastic opportunity which I would recommend for years to come!

I really enjoyed the food trip to Sorrento. My favourite part was when we visited a family-run farm. The three generations of women made mozzarella, ricotta, marmalade (made with lemons and oranges grown on the farm) and so much more.

We met Rosa, who owned the farm, and she told us how they used to make olive oil compared with

how it's made now. We then met Maria who showed us how she makes mozzarella and then uses the left over whey to make ricotta.

Sitting together we sampled their home-produced mozzarella, olive oil and a little taste of limoncello. It was fantastic day.





Raising the BAR

After two years of lockdown and restrictions, the PE department were pleased to announce in June that Sports Day was back!!!

day the students ran, jumped, and threw with all their might and muster. Our resident DJ was keeping us entertained, with our delightful MC's ensuring we were informed and providing us with their own debrief of the events as they happened.

There were some new races to ensure that everyone who could participate was given the opportunity, striking the balance between inclusion and competition.

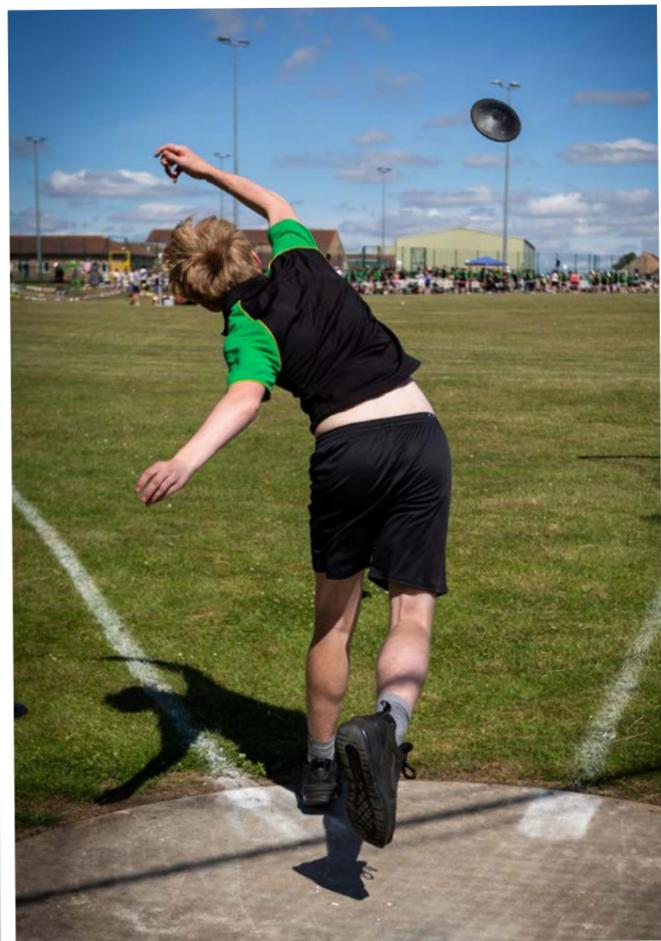
Over 600 students descended onto the school field armed with not just a sun hat, sun cream and water, but a willing desire to give it their all.

We had 9 records fall, the oldest being from 1995 in the Year 9 boys shot putt*.

Other records were:
 Year 8 Boys 300m
 Year 10 Girls 200m
 Year 10 Girls 800m
 Year 10 Girls 1500m*
 Year 10 Boys 400m
 Year 10 Boys 800m
 Year 10 Boys Shot
 Year 12 Boys 100m*

Across the course of the

*Also a school record.



The final standings were as follows:

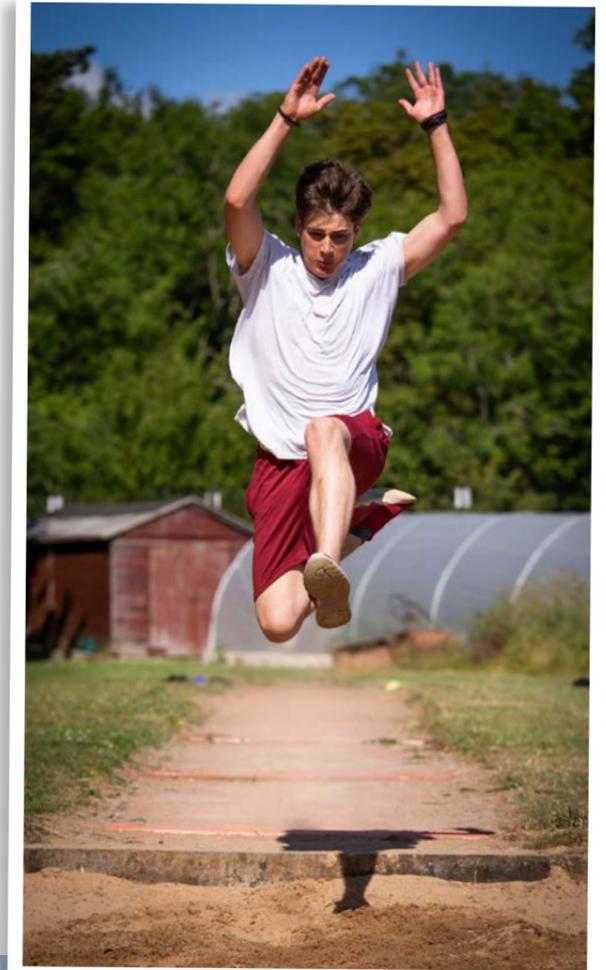
Year 7	7 SK	7 ONI	7 LO	7 SEV	7 JDA
Boys	67	65	51	63	39
Girls	71	56	82	43	50
Total	138	121	133	106	89
Position	1	3	2	4	5

Year 8	8 CAR	8 JCO	8 SB	8 TN	8 AMP
Boys	63	125	90	101	157
Girls	49	103	89	41	87
Total	112	228	179	142	244
Position	5	2	3	4	1

Year 9	9 MI	9 AR	9 CS	9 CD	9 JLB
Boys	134	100	162	117	169
Girls	80	60	72	83	66
Total	214	160	234	200	235
Position	3	5	2	4	1

Year 10	10 ELH	10 CSP	10 JB	10 SC	10 BJU
Boys	182	197	154	204	206
Girls	58	121	90	85	61
Total	240	318	244	289	267
Position	5	1	4	2	3

Year 12	12 SD & DWE	12 RW & HF	12 EL & NMC	12 PT & MPo	12 KA & PI
Boys	172	134	60	183	138
Girls	73	59	54	44	48
Total	245	193	114	227	186
Position	1	3	5	2	4



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