

With **ONE** *Voice*

Spring 2023



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WADDES DON

Voice

magazine

In this issue

- P2** From the Headteacher
- P3** The Day that Changed my Life
- P5** Where the Art Is
- P6** Big Time
- P9** Synth and Synth-Ability
- P10** From the Chaplain
- P11** Speaking for Ourselves
- P12** In with a Shout
- P13** Brought to Book
- P14** A Vision of Oxford
- P16** Keep it Up!
- P17** Musicians' Union
- P18** Next Generation

About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 10's Mary performing at this year's Big Gig, which you can read all about on page 6. She also took part in a school assembly along with her fellow Ukrainian students, on the anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which she has written about on the opposite page.



From the Headteacher

This term's Voice celebrates the transformative power of young people to act collectively and positively in the world.

On Friday, 24th February 1,000 Waddesdon students stood in solidarity at the end of a powerful and moving assembly delivered by some of their Ukrainian peers. Mary's article on the next page gives a flavour of the event.

The Waddesdon Blessing, viewed 7900 times on YouTube, prompted an invitation to a national conference which you can read about on page 17.

And finally, on page 12 you will read about our students' involvement in the annual Shout Out for SEND event.

If you want to read more about the work of our young people to improve their world and to educate others, the Living out our Values page on our website gives a flavour of how our young people's voices bring hope and justice to the world.

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form leaders and the other students who work hard to make this world a better place for all of us.



Matthew Abbott



The Waddesdon Blessing



Living Out our Values

A Fond Waddesdon Farewell

We'd like to give our thanks and best wishes to the members of our staff leaving Waddesdon at Easter. Thanks for all you've given to the school, and the best of luck in your future endeavours.



Mr Broomhead



Mrs Smith



Miss Drought



Mr Clancy

The DAY *that* CHANGED *my* LIFE

On the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Year 10's Mary led a school assembly alongside her fellow Ukrainians. Here, as in that assembly, she tells us of her experience of the beginning of the war, and shares her hopes for a better future for her country.

On the night of the 23rd February 2022 I had a horrible dream. I don't remember anything specific happening to me or my family I just remember all the buildings in my city were coloured black and red like blood and death, reminding me of the Nazi flag ...on every single building.

I woke with the feeling that something bad was going to happen. I took my phone from the table, I heard bomb sounds through my window. It was about 5am and I didn't realise what was going on. Suddenly I saw a chink of light coming under my bedroom door. Someone else awake at 5am?! I thought. How strange. Then both my parents came into my room. "Wake up Mary, the war has started."

I felt like something precious had broken inside me – for a long time I felt like I couldn't breathe normally. Despite this I immediately started packing breathlessly. I started packing some clothes and electronic devices such as my computer, my phone and the chargers for them! I packed my make up and interestingly, my tarot cards. We didn't know what we were packing for – just pack and be ready to go anywhere!

Later on that day we decided to go to a hotel in the forest, just for one night. It was the best idea to keep the whole family in a safer place than home. My Dad and Mum packed our luggage in our car and around 5o'clock in the evening we left our apartment. My Grandma, who had just arrived in Kyiv the day before from occupied territory, decided to stay. She explained "I just came from war! I want to stay here!" We didn't argue with her but a feeling of terror did not leave our family for a long time. There was a reason for this feeling as it happened because that night some Russian rocket shrapnel fell on the house next to ours. I cannot even imagine how terrified my Grandma must have been.

When we were driving to the forest was the worst night I've ever had in my life. The sounds of helicopters overhead, sirens, and enormous queues of traffic on the road. Everyone was trying to leave Kyiv because it is the capital of Ukraine and this makes it the most desirable place for the Russians to occupy. Through Kyiv they could control Ukraine as a whole.

During this short journey we had two things on our



mind – how to stay alive and what we should do now? Our parents preferred to listen to the news on the radio. Some countries were already helping the Ukrainian military, giving weapons and money. My brother and I were sitting in silence. He was watching something on his phone and I was trying to find a feeling of safety in my music albums. Searching for something to give me reassurance that everything would be fine. No one else believed that but I wanted to. We spent one night in the forest and then we were

invited by our family friends to stay in their house with them for a while. I think it is much better to have someone close who can share your feelings in that situation. We were happy to be with them.

In such a situation it is good to know that there is a light of hope. Many world leaders at that time gave speeches showing huge support. The UK, the USA, the EU, and many Asian countries as well. No one expected this but for every patriot of their country, it



Taras and his painting

is important to know that other nations are trying to help. Russia is still trying to manipulate the world with threats of nuclear weapons and to stop them we just need to stay strong together so we can defeat our common enemy as soon as possible.

That day completely changed my family's life for ever, but I think the war has shown how strong we can be if the world unites and cooperates.



More Photos

Oliwia was among our artists from Year 11 who had a chance to see some of the world's most celebrated art when they visited Tate Britain and the National Gallery in January.

The Art visit to Tate Britain and The National Gallery provided a stunning source of inspiration as well as expanding my knowledge and understanding of my Art course.

The trip provided a chance to marvel at the beauty of historical

and modern works of art as well as at the beauty of the galleries themselves. By meeting some experts of the art field, we gained an insight into the stories behind the creation of a few pieces and discovered what the artists were aiming to communicate in their work.

Both galleries offered an opportunity to explore numerous diverse pieces and were filled with many art enthusiasts, creating a relaxing and warm atmosphere.

I am incredibly grateful to the Art teachers for arranging this eye-opening visit.



BIG TIME

The Big Gig is a highlight of the year at Waddesdon, and an opportunity for our musicians to show us the amazing skills and talent that they have to offer.

Year 13's Matt gave his final performance this year, and he told us how it felt to be on the Big Gig stage one last time.

the
big
gig



More Photos

Renowned for being fun, positive and exceptionally high calibre, the Big Gig is a very special event in the school calendar. After the last couple of years, with the Gig being affected due to Covid, there was much anticipation and excitement for it to be back.

When the day arrives, setting up is always a big task (sometimes stressful too!) which helps students in the school to gain experience of the technical and behind the scenes side of music. For me personally, I know this has helped me to grow and improve as a musician. Once we had set up, we spent a long period of the day working with the volume levels and doing lighting checks and then it was show time!

The Big Gig for me has always provided joy and I love being a part of the opportunity for students to show off all their creative and incredible talents within music. The Gig also helps to inspire and encourage new students to pick up an instrument or to discover more about the music industry. Waddesdon also provides many opportunities for younger and older students to work collectively in music, with groups such as the Worship, Samba and Funk bands. Everyone in those groups shares the same passion for music.

The anticipation had grown, especially as I am in Year 13, and I wanted to make myself, my family,



and friends proud and for them to witness how far I have come as a musician since I started performing back in Year 7 in assemblies.

There were many highlights at the Big Gig, from older year groups like Dog Days Are Over by Year 12s, to the younger year groups with She Won't Go by the Year 9s. The main highlight of the event for me was undoubtedly my performance with some other 6th form students of Sultans of Swing by the Dire Straits. We have always wanted to play this song, and it challenged us all to think outside of the (sound) box to make it feel like our version and not just a direct copy. Whilst performing on stage it felt electric and I was having the time of my life with all of my friends. Once the show had finished, it was an overwhelming feeling (thankfully I didn't cry!) and it was amazing to see the kindness of all Waddesdon students helping us pack down afterwards to get the school ready for the next day.

Overall, the Big Gig for me is always an incredible event and I feel grateful to have been a part of it since 2019. It provides a great sense of community, with everyone always having each other's back and dignity and respect is always shown. Anyone who performed at the Big Gig should be immensely proud of themselves. The Big Gig will be an event which I will dearly miss in my life after Waddesdon School.



Photo: Caleb, Year 13



SYNTH *and* SYNTH *-ability*

Our Year 10 and 11 Music Tech students went back to the future with the unexpected opportunity to try out some analogue synthesizers from the 80s and beyond. Year 11's Greg tells us what he learned from this unique experience.

It was an ordinary Monday, second period, when I walked into the Music Tech classroom to see a variety of large boxes leaning against the wall. A modest Mr. Peck walked into the room and started talking about what he had in front of us: analogue synthesizers, ranging from the synth-pop wave of the 80s all the way to modern day technology.

I had only ever heard them through studio recordings which really don't do these instruments justice. As Mr Peck switched on the 'Korg Minilogue', a resonating buzz fizzed expectantly through the amp. He then pressed down a key which sent waves of electronic vibrations towards us. The sound was similar to the lead synthesizer out of 'The Model' – 'Kraftwerk'.

I was fascinated and immediately hooked, partly due to the odd look of these and also the powerful sound they can make. The sound is so adaptable, as Mr Peck showed us through the twisting of knobs consisting of the envelopes and oscillators. It was especially cool to hear the cut-off filter in action as he slid it from one side to the other whilst playing, which resulted in a warping sound.

Mr Peck took us through the basics of subtractive synthesis and even let us had a play with the synths ourselves. The whole experience was one of a kind and it was interesting to see the tech of the past – as well as learning something new about Mr. Peck.





“It makes a huge difference to stand with other people in their lives. It was Ian Maclaren who once said, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.””

Our Chaplain, Phil White, considers the importance of solidarity: of the practical and emotional support we can give by being there and doing what we can.

From the Chaplain

We have two Ukrainians living with us - mother, Iryna and daughter Sofiia who is 14.

It's been an amazing 8 months during which we've had to learn to communicate through the phone and get used to different foods and lifestyles. It has honestly been an enriching time for us and, we hope, the same for them.

When the energy prices started to rise significantly in the autumn, we talked to them about cutting down on the use of the oven and not relying on extra heaters as we approached the colder weather. We turned our heating thermostat down to 18 degrees and just put coats on! It was interesting that Iryna's first thought was to offer to pay for the extra energy we would use. It wasn't easy to explain, but we declined and managed to help them see that instead, we would just need to wear more clothes to keep warm.

There were several reasons for doing that: to reduce the amount of energy we were using to help with the environment, to keep costs down and, importantly to stand with them in solidarity as their relatives

still in Ukraine were not able to heat their homes and had intermittent electricity. Iryna told us of her elderly mother who had lived in her basement for over a month with very little food and water and heating - she had lost a lot of weight and was very depressed. The winter temperatures in Ukraine regularly are 20 degrees below freezing, so what have we to worry about?

Another thing I've been doing recently is asking anyone in the NHS a question: “Has anyone told you today that you're doing an amazing job?” Without fail, everyone has said, “NO!” My response is to simply say, “Then, I'll be the first to say it to

you today - you're doing an amazing job and we all appreciate you in your struggles and the way you've looked after us in the last few years.” The smiles I've received have been truly amazing.

It makes a huge difference to stand with other people in their lives. It was Ian Maclaren who once said, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.”

Let's stand together and make this world a better place. What could you do to show solidarity? “Can't be bothered” is an option, but not a great one!



Photo: Priscilla Du Preez/Unsplash

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!



Ryuji and Catherine, both from Year 12, presented at the Articulation Prize at Waddesdon Manor - and both qualified for the next round. Next stop - the Ashmolean! Mrs Rayner caught up with Ryuji to find out the secret of their success.



The National Gallery's Articulation Prize takes place annually between January and March across 10 regions. Over 1000 young people deliver a 10-minute illustrated presentation to an audience about a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice in a museum or gallery setting. Adjudicators then assess each presentation as a whole, looking at content, structure, delivery and the speaker's original approach and unique potential.

This year, Waddesdon school entered two students for the first time, Catherine and Ryuji. We are delighted that both students have made it through to the next round after winning the regional heat at Waddesdon Manor in February.

I asked Ryuji about his experience of the Articulation process so far:

“Starting the Articulation process in late 2022 in the MK art gallery, which involved researching and talking about a piece of art by Larry Achiampong, I was subsequently chosen to take part in the National Gallery's Articulation Prize. I would be lying if I said I was 100% confident in doing it. However, as time went on, I realised that I had been given an opportunity that I wouldn't trade for the world.

While researching the artwork I did (The Three Oncologists), it became clear that it was something I did want to do, even though I was anxious. The

time I spent researching and having to scrap presentations, even when 90% completed, all became worthwhile in the end when I was selected to go through to the next round at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

I realise now how perfectly everything aligned - my coming to Waddesdon as an external sixth form student, being an English Lit student, and going on the trip; this was a once in a lifetime experience. I can confidently say my hard work paid off, as it allowed me to have a network that links me to Oxford and Cambridge University, Articulation alumni and resources that will allow me to succeed in my future endeavours.

So far, it has been an uphill battle but a satisfying climb nonetheless, and to anyone considering doing it, do it. See what it has to offer.”



Catherine's Presentation



Our Year 8s Joe and Bethany attended the Shout Out for SEND event in Aylesbury recently, so that they could have their say about how we can improve inclusion in our schools. They told us about and interesting and fun day, and about the ideas that they put forward.

On the 9th November we went on a trip with two teachers to the Shout Out for SEND conference. We went to the Aylesbury Rugby Club where young people from other schools around the county came to meet with Buckinghamshire County Council's Director of Education, Simon James and

Buckinghamshire's Cabinet Member for Education, Anita Cranmer. We all came to talk about how schools can help with inclusion.

Firstly, we did an ice breaker, we talked about ourselves, then went on to talk about inclusion and what it meant to us. For us, it meant being together and not being left out, for example not being left out of a friend's group or not being able to take part in a rugby match.

Our first real activity was inclusion in the classroom. We talked about what our ideal classroom is and what it would look like (ours had to have the sign of Chip Friday!). So, in this task we had a big piece of paper and we had to write good and bad things about how all students are included. Waddesdon School

had the best result, already doing most of the things other schools were saying. These were the things Waddesdon had:

1. Flexible seating options
2. A very good cafeteria
3. Toilets are very hygienic
4. We treat everyone in the community with DIGNITY & RESPECT
5. All the staff are very kind.

One of the most important things we talked about was where we would be seated. Having the opportunity to be asked to be seated somewhere, maybe because we couldn't see the board or not feeling comfortable with the person you sit next to you, really helps us feel included.

Then we had to build a model of an inclusive classroom. We made the classroom look like the ones at Waddesdon. The qualities an inclusive classroom at Waddesdon has are warming, funny, inclusive and educational. It's a space where everyone gets on well.

We had a break and then moved on to inclusion in the wider school life, like where you could sit at lunch or break, having all different meals like street food or a baguette and if you're vegetarian there's always an option for you too.

Then we had Domino's pizza for lunch. After that we did our final activity which was inclusion in the community and what we do, like doing a run every year to support charities or being able to have larger print when I go to church to help me read.

Eventually, we signed out and went home. It was such a good experience.



World Book Day came to Waddesdon with a host of activities in the library to encourage students to pick up a book and read. Year 8's Phoebe tells us more.

World Book Day at Waddesdon is a very exciting day for everyone, especially for the librarian! At lunch

and break on 3rd March, we were given the opportunity to join in with the activities the library had to offer to celebrate World Book Day, such 'guess the book in the jar', a book quiz and a book swap stall. There were also prizes to be won, including sweets!

I think the best part was the book swap because there were books for

all ages and abilities, even those who perhaps don't enjoy reading as much. I also liked the 'guess the book in the jar' game as it involved team work and observational skills to complete the challenge.

It was a lot of fun, and on behalf of all the students who went, thank you to everyone who helped to create such a special event.





Our Year 10 Photographers travelled to Oxford to seek inspiration and opportunity in its many photographic locations. Timmy takes us through his day and shares a selection of his images.

On the 7th February the Year 10 photography students went on a trip to Oxford. When we got there, we split into two groups so as not to intimidate the locals! One group went to the Radcliffe Camera first, that being mine, and the other went to the covered market. We saw a lot of beautiful architecture, casting great shadows of different shapes which were perfect for taking photos.

After seeing the architecture, we went to the main high street. We saw a large variety of shops and sights, all of which different from the rest (the only exception being the innumerable Harry Potter-themed stores which, much to my annoyance, distracted my group quite a bit). There were several buskers on the street, with one even playing some sort of wind-up organ sounding device.

After this, we met up with the other group and ate lunch. Sadly, I had been instructed by Mrs. Evans to leave my bag, which contained my wallet, on the bus. Very happily, my lack of money would have been an issue if Mrs. Evans hadn't kindly lent me five pounds so that I might not starve and die...!



Afterwards we went to the covered market. I tell you now that I have never seen a wider range of shops in one place in my life. There were shops that sold things like cakes, to shops that sold socks. Yes, only socks! Literally nothing other than socks. We took photos and walked around for about an hour, admiring the sights and brightly coloured shop windows.



We saw many interesting people on the trip, including an old man on his bike who, when asked if I could take a photo of him, inquired as to what about him was so interesting that I wished to take a picture of him, to which I responded that I simply didn't know, only that he seemed like a perfect image to portray life in Oxford.



On the bus ride back, I sorted through my photos to find my best ones and, even though the drive was over an hour, it took me all of the journey to sort through them as I took far more than was probably needed.



KEEP It Up!

A day of medieval discovery was in store for our Year 7 students on a trip to Warwick Castle. Frazer told us all about a fun and informative day.



After an hour's bus ride to Warwick Castle, the teachers signed us in and we went to find a spot to eat lunch. It was lovely to eat outside because the sun was shining and the grounds were beautiful.

After eating lunch, we went to the top of the castle keep. The stairs were very steep and some people struggled to get up them. This made our legs hurt and some people were scared of heights.

We came down after taking some pictures and went to the top of the wall and the tower. We saw the arrow slits where the archery would have shot at the enemy. This was very interesting.

Finally, we came down and we went into the time tower and there was a tour guide who explained the history of the castle and all the kings and queens. We did some role play and learned about the Wars of the Roses and the history of the house. Dexter was the queen and I was the king. Everyone enjoyed themselves!



Musicians' UNION



The school recently sent a choir of our best singers to perform at a conference at the beautiful Union Chapel in London. Year 12's Evy explains what made it such a special day.

I had the amazing opportunity to visit The Union Chapel in London for the C of E National Conference. I was part of a choir of 19 other students from Year 7 to Year 13 from our school and 4 band members also came. I felt very honoured to have been chosen to be part of this amazing event and really enjoyed the process of rehearsing with the team. As a choir, we met on Wednesday lunchtimes and some after-school sessions with Mr Judson to learn all of the songs and to ensure that we were prepared to give our best at the event. It was good fun to get to know students from other year groups and to help with planning harmonies for the songs.

We were invited to do a few songs which were 'The Blessing', 'Blessed be Your Name' and 'The

Prayer'. For the first two songs, we were joined by another school choir from Wakefield. It was scary to think that we hadn't practised together but our choirs blended well and the performances were fabulous. It was great to hear so many voices singing together with flawless harmonies and to see such beautiful dancers from another school. I was also privileged to perform 'The Prayer' with Charlie Hoaen. Whilst we had performed this a number of times before, this time it felt so important and after the performance I was delighted when The Archbishop of York came to greet me and told me that 'I had a gifting to sing'.

I was so proud of the whole group as they all worked so hard and all did their best on the day, and we had a really good time.

We listened to Secretaries of Education speaking, we sang and danced with local primary schools with the help of ISing Pop who are a Christian organisation that helps schools with vibrant singing and dance. It was such fun to see everyone dance and relax it was a lovely atmosphere.

The biggest challenge of the day was the fact that we had to be at school at 6am! However, a quick McDonald's breakfast and a great group to travel with helped. The rest of the day was absolutely amazing and it was a real honour to be involved. I am so thankful that our teachers create opportunities like this for us. I really encourage anyone who has the opportunity to take part in an event like this to grab the opportunity; you'll be so glad that you did.

Our GreenPower electric racing team is changing. They have gained a new cohort of members from Year 8, and our Year 9 students are now working on a brand new, scratch-built car. Year 8's Oliver and Year 9's Sophie tell us about new challenges and new horizons.



NEXT GENERATION

Oliver: Since the end of October, we have been given the old kit car from the year 9s. The car is made of mild steel, and we have been asked to strip it down to the bare metal in order to remove any unnecessary material and to drill holes into parts of the frame: this is to make it even lighter. By making the kit car lighter and removing any unwanted weight we are making it more competitive for next race day.

Now that we have pulled the car apart and spray painted the chassis black as a base colour, we are rebuilding and we have redesigned this year's car. We are hoping to have a hexagon pattern

along the side of the car and also keep the Waddesdon colours.

We have put most of the car together. We are currently working on the steering and then we just have the brakes, motor and electrics to put in.

For sponsorship, we spoke and wrote to a lot of engineering firms. So far we have raised around £700 but we think that we can raise upto £1000 before our first race day. This has helped us with buying parts and replacing bits that are broken or need upgrading.



Mr Weaver in action!



Local MP Greg Smith had a look at our cars

Sophie: Over the course of around seven months, the Year 9 GreenPower team has begun to build another F24 electric racing car. This time, however, we have started from the very beginning and have constructed it entirely from scratch. This is in contrast to the car we built in Year 8, which was a kit car, meaning we already had a chassis and built it up from there. That kit car has now been passed down to the current Year 8s, who are working alongside us and preparing it for the upcoming season.

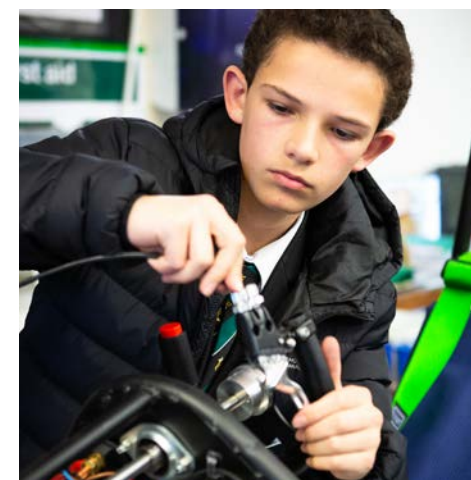
Currently, we have an entire chassis built for our scratch car, and we are now adding

other elements to it such as the wiring, steering and more. Not too long ago we were able to go on the tennis courts and practice going round in the new car. Even though it looked like just a frame holding only a motor, batteries and a few wires, we were still thrilled to know that it worked, with the hope in mind that it will be ready for the upcoming 2023 race season.

Alongside the manufacturing of the car, we have been contemplating a few ideas about the design of it. After multiple sketches and brainstorming sessions, we have come to the agreement that we should keep the same colours and lightning bolt as before, although we are going to remodel it slightly so we don't have the same design.

Another crucial aspect of this project is the money and sponsorship side of it, which we started working on early in September. We came up with a list of businesses and prepared a letter to send off to them, containing information about our project and asking whether they would be interested in sponsoring us. We got a few replies from businesses who said they would love to help, providing us with enough money to buy the items we needed to assemble a full F24 car. In all, we ended up getting over £1000 for our project.

As we carry on constructing our F24 scratch car, we are slowly edging closer to the start of our first race of 2023.





WADDESdon EXHIBITION 2023

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE
4PM - 7PM

Strictly NO photography of the exhibitions please

ART & DESIGN | GRAPHICS | MEDIA STUDIES
PHOTOGRAPHY | DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY



creatives.waddesdonschool.com

Join the Talkback Transitions to Work Scheme

Funded by The Rothschild Foundation



Talkback and Citizens Advice Bucks are launching a new, 10 week transitions to work programme. Designed to help autistic people aged between 16 and 25 years old, who live in Buckinghamshire and can travel independently, into the world of work, the programme offers:

- Application preparation
- Job finding support
- Interview preparation
- Money and benefits advice
- 1:1 coaching
- Up to six months 'in-role' support

To join the programme you must have achieved Entry Level 3 or above in Literacy and Numeracy and be autistic (diagnosed, in process or acknowledged via other support).

Where is it taking place?

Aylesbury, March 2023 and May 2023
High Wycombe, September 2023



If you'd like to apply
email intoemployment@talkback-uk.com
call 01494 434448



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