

Summer 2023



www.waddesdonschool.com



I AM
Because
WE ARE

WADDES DON

Voice
magazine

In this issue

- P2** From the Headteacher
- P3** All Inclusive
- P4** Gets My Vote
- P6** From the Chaplain
- P7** Peak Power
- P8** Zoo Quest
- P9** Biology Winners
- P10** Fest and Furious!
- P13** Star Man
- P14** Race Ready
- P16** King Cole
- P17** Ooh la la!
- P18** National Treasure
- P19** A Winter's Tale
Kaleidoscopic
- P20** Carnegie Conundrum
- P22** Animal Magic
- P23** High School
- P24** Water Way to Go
- P25** Make or Break
- P26** Back of the Net
- P27** PE Round Up
- P28** Recognising Enrichment

About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 12's Catherine dressed in traditional Nigerian clothing, joining her fellow students singing and dancing at our recent Cultural Heritage day, which you can learn more about on the page opposite. She also appears elsewhere in the Voice. Can you spot her?



From the Headteacher

The phrase 'I am, because we are' is a translation of the word 'ubuntu', drawn from the Zulu language. It reminds us that flourishing is not an individual pursuit, but a collective endeavour, released in relationships and communities that live well together.

How we relate to one another, and how we value one another tells us what sort of community we live in and the world we wish to build. That is why we celebrate and cherish people from all backgrounds and the richly different stories they have to

tell us. Diversity Week and WaddFest were two events this term which celebrated the rich diversity at Waddesdon, whether that be in terms of religion, race, sexuality, neurotypicality, or neurodivergence.

Living well together isn't always easy, especially when you are a young person worried about your appearance, popularity, exam grades or world issues which often seem too big to contemplate. That is why 'ubuntu' is always a work in progress, but a work worth pursuing.

I hope, as you read this



Matthew Abbott

edition of the Voice, that you will revel in the positive values and hope which come through it, the spirit of 'ubuntu' and the remarkable leadership opportunities which help to unlock all young people's potential. Waddesdon is, because we are.

Farewell and Thank You

We'd like to say goodbye and best wishes to the staff who are leaving Waddesdon at the end of the school year. Some are shown here, and some at the end of page 6.



Mrs Carr-Ruby



Ms Jauregui



Mrs Smith



Mrs Brookhouse



Waddesdon came together to celebrate Cultural Awareness Day around the school, with our students encouraged to wear traditional dress to celebrate the many backgrounds that make us. Year 12's Gabriel tells us more about the day.



www.waddesdonschool.com



My experience of Cultural Awareness Day was a positive one.

Having a day like this showed the community of Waddesdon school how diverse we each are yet how connected we are with one another. The people that make up Waddesdon School really embraced and accepted how everyone was

different, from White British to Pakistani, Chinese, Ghanaian, Nigerian and many more besides.

The cultural dresses were amazing, showing the vibrant and colourful culture of one's country and having an assembly about the day tied the knot perfectly. During the assembly it became apparent that knowing

where people were from was touching and amazing, showing we have a lovely unique and diverse culture.

Overall, this day was a great experience, as well as a success in spreading cultural awareness.





Our Year 7s saw democracy in action with the help of our Year 12 organisers, who presented the policies of the main parties to them before holding a mock election. Hannah was part of the Year 12 team and she tells us why it was an important exercise.

Year 7 students had the opportunity to experience democracy at its very core on 21st and 22nd June. The Sixth Form Debate Society organised a Year 7 Mock General Election where students could vote for their candidate of choice after hearing from Sixth Formers representing the four main UK political parties. We were driven by a conviction that students aren't being exposed to our parliamentary system quickly enough, so hence providing this peer educational opportunity.

Sixth Formers designed and delivered a form-time activity to set up the concept; the Year 7 students engaged with enthusiasm, answering quiz questions about our democracy like "At what age are you able to register to vote?" and "What is an MP?" We also showed a clip from the UK Parliament Education website and designated the five forms into constituencies to bring the Mock General Election concept to life. By giving the

students first-hand experience of exercising their democratic right, we were able to cement and build on their prior knowledge about this important aspect of our democracy. Year 7s then all had the opportunity to register to vote on ClassCharts, just as they will need to do for a General Election; we were pleased that 120 registered by the deadline.

The following day, we held the



speeches in assembly. Ben H represented the Conservatives, Faiza represented the Green Party, Aran represented Labour, and Ben J represented the Liberal Democrats. All four candidates wrote short speeches to explain the principles and views of their party on issues such as education, healthcare and the environment, passionately arguing their cases.



Year 7 students were then given the opportunity to choose who would be the best representative for them in their constituency. Those who had registered to vote on ClassCharts had the opportunity to vote, while the unfortunate few who hadn't registered were unable to voice their opinion. This was done to emphasise how important it is to be organised in order to vote.

Votes were then all counted, including spoiled ballots. With



the results in, it was clear that Labour had won the election in a landslide, with 61.74% of the votes, winning in all five constituencies, and would form the government.

We were pleased to be able to provide Year 7 students with this important educational experience that will hopefully encourage more young people to engage with politics and the democratic process. We know that in the last UK General

Election in 2019, only 47% of 18-24 year olds voted, while overall voter turnout was 67%, with 71.4% of people over 50 voting.

As young adults we hope that more of us come to care about our right to vote and our ability to help shape our government and country; each vote is important, and being able to involve young people in politics will mean we can make a difference and voices can be heard.





“The truth is that none of us have done it our way completely - we’ve all had to depend on others to get to where we are now.”

Our Chaplain, Phil White, invites us to think about those around us who have helped, guided and been there for us through our lives. Do we ever truly achieve anything on our own?

From the Chaplain

Forgive me, but I’ve heard the song “I did it my way” by Frank Sinatra used at so many funerals - proclaiming the self-made person we were remembering each time. The truth is, though, that none of us have done it our way completely - we’ve all had to depend on others to get to where we are now. In other words, “I am, because we are”.

We live in an age where young people are repeatedly told about their careers, “you can do anything you choose to do”. I’m not sure that’s true! I wanted to be a barrister when I was young - I know now that I didn’t have the necessary skills and I hate conflict and the courtroom is full of it! I’d have hated it! I’m glad I listened to my elders and teachers who guided me. I needed them and still do in the decisions I make every day. We all know that we need others in our lives to guide and direct us. “I am, because we are.”

When I was thinking about what to write for this article, I was drawn to the first part of the quote - “I AM”. In the Old Testament, in Exodus 3, we read about Moses finding a bush that was on fire but was not being burnt up. God tells him to rescue his people from the cruel Egyptians. Moses protests and says he can’t do it - “and what if Pharaoh doesn’t listen to me and asks your name - then what do I say?” God simply

tells Moses to say to Pharaoh, “I AM WHO I AM”.

I am always encouraged by this - the God I believe in describes himself as I AM. He is always present, always involved in my day to day. He’s not the God of the past alone.

I think we can see the same in our quote, “I am, because we are”. It’s the relationships we have with each other now which are empowering. I know of a Ukrainian boy who has come to this country and is struggling without any friends. It’s not enough that he’s got good friends back home - he needs them now and in this place.

My advice to you all is to treasure those around you who make you what you are and treasure them now. They are important for you now in this moment.

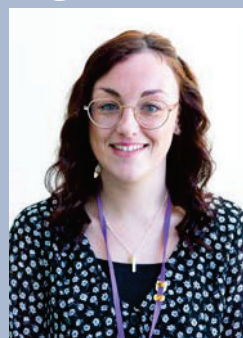


Frank Sinatra

Also Leaving Us This Term



Ms Harris



Ms Preedy



Ms Slater



Miss Watson



Mr Feegrade



This year we returned to Jay Peak, Vermont, USA for another fun-filled skiing adventure. For some students it was their first experience of skiing, whilst other more experienced skiers looked forward to tackling the double diamonds and the glade skiing that Jay Peak is famous for.

Leaving school at 3am we flew out of Heathrow and landed nearly 8 hours later in Boston. After a short 4-hour transfer, we arrived at a very white Jay Peak. Once we had settled into our rooms, we enjoyed dinner, organised our ski equipment and then it was time for bed. Some staff and students had been awake for over 26 hours.

Waking up early, it was time for an American breakfast which is always welcome and often soaked in copious amounts of maple syrup. A special shout out to Tracy, who looked after us every morning. In life you meet some special people, and Tracy is one of those people.

It was then time to hit the slopes and the students made the most of the next 5 days. Students received 2½ hours of tuition in the morning, a quick stop for lunch, (I would highly recommend trying the poutine) and another 2½ hours of tuition in the afternoon.

During the week, a number of challenges were overcome: losing

equipment, getting off the lifts, getting on the lifts, and a variety of stylish crashes. The day was never a boring one! The mountain at Jay takes some beating at this time of year. In the morning you could be skiing in shorts, the afternoon gales, and by the evening the snow could be falling. It’s all part of Easter skiing in Vermont.

Evening entertainment is always a winner in Jay, with two nights in the water park, an evening on the climbing walls and the all-inclusive retro arcade; you would like to think the students would welcome their beds.

It was soon time say goodbye to Jay and make our way to Boston for some retail therapy, one last American style lunch and then to Logan International and the flight home.

The trip was a huge success and for some I hope it will be a life changing experience and just the beginning of their skiing adventures.

I want to thank all staff who gave up their holiday. Without them this trip wouldn’t have been possible. I would also like to thank the students, who were fantastic. It’s all about creating memories and I hope they enjoyed the trip as much as I did. A special thanks to Oliver who created a great video to remind us of a great 7 days (scan the link below).

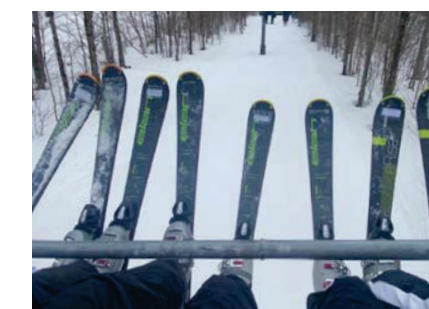
Until the next trip in 2025, a huge thank you to everyone in Jay Peak and all the staff at Waddesdon School.



Oliver's Video



More Photos





On the 23rd June, the Year 12 A Level Biology classes took a trip to Whipsnade Zoo. It was part of our Biology fieldwork, when we had to gather information about the different species of plants using quadrats and an identification sheet.

We were welcomed by Katie, a zoo ranger, and she introduced us to the history of the zoo. She took us to an area on the edge of the zoo where there was heavy footfall and we took measurements of the species of plants, soil pH, and light intensity. This was then compared to an area where public are not normally

allowed, showing us the difference of biodiversity.

Once all field work was complete, we set off in groups to explore the zoo. We came across all sorts of animals, from elephants to butterflies. We even saw the red panda!

After a long hot day, we arrived back home by coach. Thanks to Mrs Laird, Miss Tubb and Mr Sampson for a great trip.



This term Waddesdon Biology students have again taken part in the UK Biology Competitions. These competitions involve students completing an online test under exam conditions. Questions are based on the curriculum, but also reward 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 and 10 Biology students competed in the Biology Challenge alongside over 43,000 students from schools worldwide. We are delighted that 12 students achieved bronze certificates, and a special congratulations to John in Year 10 who has achieved a Gold Award!

Year 12 Biologists competed in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad this term. Of the 32 students that took part from Waddesdon, 5 were highly commended and Ben achieved a gold award, placing

him in the top 5% of competitors! 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!

Following their successes last year, five Year 13 Biologists competed in the Biology Olympiad. A huge well done to Brynn, Lewis and Juliette for achieving Bronze awards and Reuben who earned a Silver Award. We wish them all well as they continue to study biological sciences at university next year.





More Photos



Promo Video

The Summer Term always finishes with a party as WaddFest celebrates the talent and dedication of our musicians, singers and bands. Our Year 12 music students summed up the whole experience for us, from the hard work beforehand to the joy of the performance itself.

FEST

and Furious!



WaddFest is our school's performing arts and cultural community festival – a real celebration of the best of our school. Mr Judson tasked us with preparing for and promoting the event, as well as the set up on the day and performing a full set of five songs as a class band. It was a great experience and a challenge that we all thoroughly enjoyed. Here's a bit about the whole process ...

Our aims for the WaddFest promo video were to be both engaging and informative. We decided to use a catchy, popular song as the focus of an entertaining

video, featuring lots of dancing and students and staff from all around the school, to show how WaddFest is all about celebrating our community. With the help of organisation and direction by Ella and editing by Andy, we produced an enjoyable video to promote the event.

The class took on extensive rehearsals in preparation for the festival. With the intention to perform 5 songs as a class, and with only 4 weeks to learn them, we had to be organised. We prepared a schedule and tried to pace our rehearsals as efficiently as possible to reduce

time wasted and get our songs to a high standard. On top of our whole-class practice, we were also tasked with developing 10 acoustic performances fit for the acoustic stage, which we had to practise in our own time.

It was 9am on a Thursday morning and we rocked up to the garage, mentally preparing ourselves for the graft we were about to put in. Some of the Year 13 leavers and alumni from last year came to help out too! We took turns wheeling the staging to the field, which was a task and a half, and positioned it behind the Rothschild Building. We then set up the acoustic stage



which was significantly easier than the field stage. Setting this up consisted of laying out the stilts in three rows of seven, placing the lids on top and placing the stairs on either side of the stage.

In celebration of Mrs Carr-Ruby's 17 years at Waddesdon and imminent retirement, we organised a small lunch for her which took place in the first half of third period. She is a legend and deserved a treat! After this it was straight back to work setting up the gear on the stages. This included plugging in cables, setting up instruments and the sound desk and positioning microphones. It then started to drizzle a little so we had to cover the large stage with a huge tarpaulin until it stopped! We all went underneath and jammed out to some music whilst keeping it in place to shelter the equipment from the rain. The rest of the set up went well and both stages were sound checked before 4pm.

The gates opened at 5.30pm to the sound of the amazing DJ M&M, spinning an incredible DJ set. Live music kicked off with a bang with 'Life is a Highway' by Year 10s and Lydia on the Acoustic Stage. Over 75 student performers across Years 7 to 13 were involved in music and dance. Some of the highlights of the night were performing our Year 12 band set, the Worship Band, Year 8 supergroup 'Rotation', the outstanding Matt Kirby, the orchestra and Jude and the AMGs.

The staff band drew a massive crowd as the night edged towards a close and we had to say a sad goodbye to the beloved Mrs Carr-Ruby. It was great to hear the whole crowd singing "Carr-Ruby Ruby Ruby" in tribute to her. After this, the dancing congregated at the front of the stage and we were treated to an outstanding headline set from the Funk Band.

After the light faded, all hands worked together towards a record pack-down of 1 hour 40 minutes! All in all, the night was a great success and showed what an amazing community Waddesdon is.



STAR MAN

It was an amazing honour to have a visit from NASA astronaut Tony Antonelli, who has piloted two Shuttle missions to the International Space Station. Our Year 8s and 10s were able to ask him questions about his stellar career.



Excitement was stratospheric as we recently had the incredible opportunity to welcome NASA astronaut Tony Antonelli. With an impressive background as a navy pilot and aeronautics expert, Tony's visit was nothing short of inspiring.

His wealth of experience, including flying on Space Shuttle missions and contributing to NASA's Mars plans, made him a fascinating figure to learn from. The impact of his visit on the lives of our young students was immeasurable,

as they engaged in a thought-provoking discussion and had their burning questions answered.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students to interact with a real-life astronaut and hear his extraordinary stories first-hand. His achievements, coupled with his down-to-earth demeanour, resonated deeply with our students. Tony's presence reminded them that dreams can be pursued and achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a

commitment to lifelong learning.

During his visit, Tony took the time to answer numerous questions from our Year 8 and Year 10 students. From inquiries about life in space to the challenges of being an astronaut, his responses provided valuable insights into the reality of space exploration. These interactions sparked curiosity, ignited imaginations, and left a lasting impact on our students' minds.





RACE *Ready*

Our GreenPower racing team have started their 2023 campaign with two races in less than a week, at two historic test tracks. As Year 12's Joe tells us, our strong on-track performances have already put us where we need to be.

“Now that we have built the GreenPower cars and they are race ready, we have been able to take part in two amazing race days at Lotus Hethel and Ford Dunton.”

At the Lotus race track, we were surrounded by lots of other scratch build and kit cars. Although we went quickly at the start of the race, we also quickly lost power towards the end.

The scratch build car did really well and managed to rack up 33.7 miles in 90 minutes whereas the kit car managed 29.26 miles! It was a really hot day, about 32 degrees on the track, but it was nice and cool when we were driving. Cameron and Austin managed to get the second and third fastest lap times out of all the kit cars in our first race!

We did a few modifications to the cars throughout the week to be better prepared for Ford Dunton race track. Although Ford Dunton wasn't as hot, the track layout was difficult: one of the corners was really tight meaning that there

were a few crashes into the hay bales. Our drivers were careful, and speedily navigated through the bends - Mr Iveson couldn't watch to begin with! Our drivers have been practising regularly at school on our tennis courts, and were able to go around without too much difficulty. Our practice also included changing drivers. Our teams took care while practising as any mistakes would result in a time penalty on the race days.

My fellow sixth form helpers and I kept the team on track so we knew when to be in the pit lane for driver changeovers. Each driver is only allowed to drive for 45 minutes, so keeping track was key. Our competition was tough. Many schools showed up, one of the most noticeable being St Paul's Engineering school. They brought amazing looking race cars

and trailers with them. In their trailer they had technology which could track the driver and battery performance throughout the race, and they could talk to the driver going around the track. This has given us some ideas for the future.

We also met one of our sponsors who came to see the race from Rational. Without him, we wouldn't be racing both cars.

Our cars were placed on the grid by category of build. Our steel car (kit car) was placed near the front and our other car (scratch car) was nearer the back. Both performed exceptionally at the start. Our kit car managed to place 2nd overall in the first race! Our second race started well, but both cars broke down near the end...

After the race we got the results; they look at both races and track which cars travelled the furthest in 90 minutes. Despite the problems late on, both cars had done enough to come in 3rd place in their categories, which meant we collected our awards as well as receiving medals to take home.

By coming 3rd with both cars, this also means that we automatically qualify for the International Finals at Goodwood in October! Mr Weaver and Mr Iveson were able to get both cars back on track to secure us a place at the finals!

Between now and our September race we need to improve both cars

to make them lighter, and practise driver changeover so that we are as quick as possible. We've all had a really good time at both race tracks and are looking forward to September's remaining heat at Castle Combe.





We were lucky recently to have had a visit from the very funny Steve Cole, author of Young Bond and Dr Who books, among many others. Year 7's Thea and Year 8's Ollie relished coming face to face with such a well-known author.

On 26th June 2023 Steve Cole visited and did an assembly on how he became an author and gave a talk during period 1 about his Young Bond series.

At lunchtime there were books for sale and Steve was also signing them! One of my friends said they were feeling upset and listening to his assembly and 1 talk cheered them up!

I think Steve Cole was very funny and very loud. When he came in I was not sure about him, but when he started talking it was more exciting.

I loved him showing us the old books he made when he was younger. He also made me want to read more. He showed us all of his books and how he started writing and showed anything is possible when you put your mind to it.



Our Year 8 French students popped over the Channel recently to enjoy some French lifestyle and culture. Phoebe, Emily and Torin shared their joie de vivre with us.

Going to France was a very memorable experience. We arrived at school at 06:30 before taking the coach to Dover. On the ferry, we could explore the decks as we pleased if we were in groups of four or more.

Once we had disembarked the ferry, we checked into the "Hotel Ibis" and found our rooms. The rooms contained a single top bunk, a double bed beneath, a shower, toilet, and a sink to place all your toiletry items. It was a very comfortable room and perfect for two people.

Over the two days, we visited many interesting places. These included a boulangerie, a crêperie, laser quest, the beach, a snail farm and much more! Each day was packed full of these captivating activities which were a fantastic way for us to expand our French knowledge.

During the trip we were offered lots of French food with everyone having their own opinions on it (especially when we had the chance to try some snails)! In France we were given lots of different chances to explore the

French culture that we would not be able to do in England. For example, eating snails, having a diablo drink and being able to speak French daily!

Overall, we enjoyed practising our French speaking skills and interacting with the locals, and would really recommend the Year 8 trip to Boulogne, particularly to the people considering French GCSE, but also for anyone looking for an adventure!





Elsie and Archie tell us what they learned when our Year 10 artists visited the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery to see some of world's finest artworks.

On the 4th July 2023 we went to London to visit the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. During our visit we learnt about the art and portraits, along with their backstories. We explored how the artists created their pieces and where they got their inspiration from.

As well as this, we learnt about the concepts behind the pieces and why the artists chose to include certain aspects in their painting. Did you know that ultramarine was the most expensive colour in paintings? This is because it was made using lapis, a valuable

gem which cost more than gold! Fortunately, newer methods of painting have given us cheaper blues...

We all had a wonderful day and would like to thank the Art Department for coming along with us and supporting us on our art journey. We got to go around the museums, browsing the amazing pieces of art and trying to draw them. I would highly recommend both galleries when you are next in London.



A WINTER'S TALE

Our Year 10 Art students took part in a workshop with artist Michelle Dufaur, who showed them techniques for creating willow lanterns for display at the Manor this Christmas. Frances shares what they discovered.

On Monday 10th July, artist Michelle Dufaur came to teach us how to work with willow to create sculpture lanterns for Waddesdon Winter Lights. In this session we were taught how to make complex shapes out of willow whips by combining a series of tear drop shapes. These shapes, when put together, formed a two-dimensional wolf's body.

They were then joined together to make a three-dimensional wolf lantern, to be displayed in the Stables at Waddesdon Manor. We finished the session by creating three-dimensional stars, also to be displayed at the manor. The forms we made in this brilliant session will become a part of an extravagant lantern installation telling the story of 'The Lights that Dance in the Night' by Yuval Zommer.

In the afternoon both Year 10 and a selection of Year 9 artists responded to the illustrations of Yuval Zommer, using inks and oil pastels to create experimental mark-making that represented the wolf texture. The students worked in a highly creative manner to generate some very exciting outcomes!



KALEIDOSCOPIC

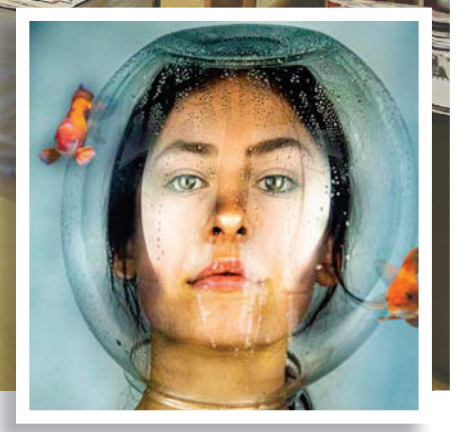
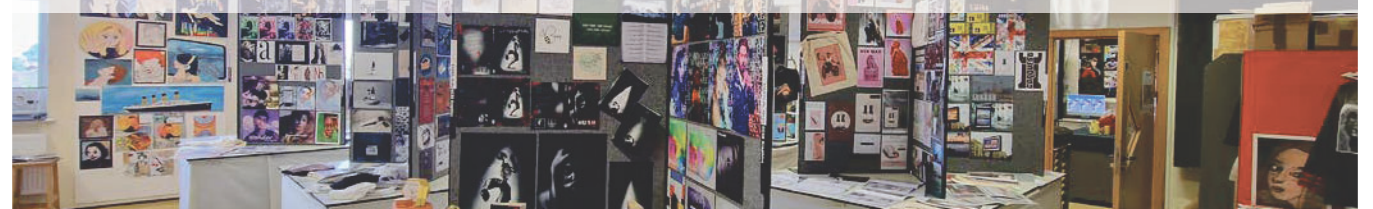
We were delighted to welcome over a thousand visitors to the Annual Art and Design, Technology and Media Studies, 'Kaleidoscope' exhibition held early in June. The exhibition showcased the work of Year

11 GCSE and Year 13 A Level students.

Visitors were stunned with the quality and variety of work on display. It was great to be able to celebrate students' work with

family, friends, and the wider school community.

We are thrilled that many of our students are going on to study creative subjects at the next level (A Level or Degrees).





Carnegie CONUNDRUM

We were asked to take part in the Carnegie Shadowing Project by our English teachers. We met on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays we'd meet at lunchtime and on Thursdays we'd meet after school. We would discuss the books and who we thought should win in our opinion.

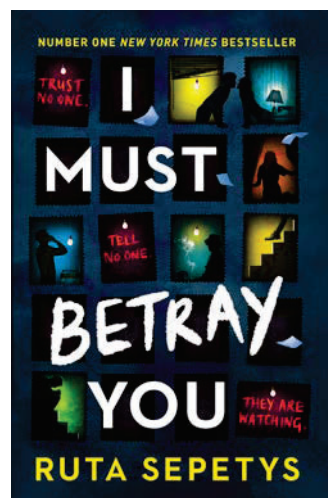
Our group voted *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys as our winner. Our 2nd place was *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros and our third place was *The Light in Everything* by Katya Balen.

The winner of the Yoto Carnegie 2023 was *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros. The Shadowers'

Our Year 8 Carnegie Shadowing group have been absorbed in the books nominated for this year's coveted literary prize, voted for by students. Rhianon, Emily and Phoebe puzzled over which were their favourites, and why.

prize went to Ruta Sepetys with *I Must Betray You*.

At our last meeting we had a party to celebrate what we had done and to find out who had won, and we were awarded certificates for taking part in the Carnegie Shadowing project as well as eating lots of snacks!



I Must Betray You

Amazing book. It has a very engaging plot and storyline. *I Must Betray You* is possibly one of the best books I've ever read! Set in the late 1980s in Communist Romania, *I Must Betray You* focuses on the life of Cristian Florescu. The book gives people who perhaps don't know that Romania was once communist a chance to learn about some new things that they didn't know about before. I give this book 5 out of 5! **Rhianon**

The Blue Book of Nebo

This book was very interesting. It

was a nice short story, and it really made you think. The idea for the book was good and also inventive. The description was amazing, so I had a picture in my head of what was going on. It ended when I wanted it to carry on, but this was probably just because I was enjoying it so much. Overall I would rate *The Blue Book of Nebo* 3.9/5 stars. **Emily**

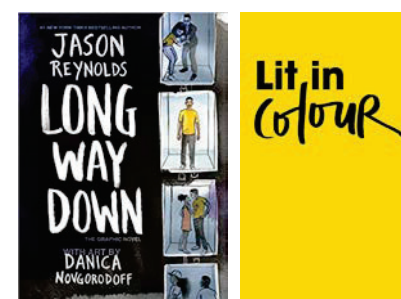
The Light in Everything

As soon as I picked up this book, I couldn't put it down! The first thing I noticed was the powerful description that painted a clear picture in my head of what I was

reading. The chapters were nice and short, making it quite an easy read. This story really showed you the thoughts going on inside two completely different people's minds, and how they changed throughout the book to eventually come together and understand each other through their interests and opinions. I thought that generally the plot of the story was very heart touching, although I thought it was quite predictable in some cases, especially because it gave a lot away in the blurb. Overall, I would give this book a solid 4/5. **Phoebe**

Book Review

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds



This story touches on decision making that challenges morals and could change a person's life.

The main character's name is William Holloman. He is visited by the ghost of his relatives who died of gunshot wounds. The book goes through his mental and physical pain. A quote to support this would be: "...which felt like another person trapped behind my face, tiny fists

punching the back of my eyes, feet kicking my throat at the spot where the swallow starts."

As you progress through the novel and begin to think about it, you'll find yourself on the same thought path as William in the sense that you start to get engrossed in the book.

Alexie, Year 9



For their whole-year Activity Day, our Year 7s visited Whipsnade Zoo, where they were charmed and amazed by the animals they saw. We asked Frazer, Archer, Violet, Emmeleia and Jacob what they had enjoyed the most.



Photo by Archer

'I was a cameraman for the day! I managed to capture some cool images of a group of elephants and a cute baby elephant which reminded me of Dumbo. I took a good picture of a majestic tiger, whom I named Tigger. We had a great time eating our lunch outside with a beautiful view. I decided to roll down the hill with my friends – fun fun fun!' **Frazer**

'I had a great time as we saw the diverse animals and how they lived and what they ate. My favourites were the Marabou Storks, as they were colourful and flew around the amphitheatre, as they were new at the zoo' **Archer**

'I think Whipsnade Zoo is a great place to see animals and learn about endangered species. My favourite part was the bird show because it was fun to see them fly

and learn how different birds can fly higher, go faster or dive better than others. Whipsnade Zoo wants to try and help endangered species by caring for them and helping with their breeding so they are no longer endangered. I think it shows that they really care for nature and animals' **Violet**

'My favourite part of the zoo trip was spending time with my friends. I also found it very interesting learning about the different programs ZSL has in place to help wildlife. One that caught my attention was the breeding programs for endangered species. I was really happy to see all the enclosures were well-kept and had lots of room for the animals. I think it's very important to make sure animals are treated correctly at the zoo because all animals deserve the chance of a long, happy life. Overall, I think the zoo was a great place to

visit and I can truly say I enjoyed it' **Emmeleia**

'When we went to the zoo, we saw lots of different animals such as lemurs, giraffes and fish. My favourite part of the zoo is always seeing the aquarium and lions, although this time we could not see the lions as they had recently acquired a new one and were letting it settle in. We watched 'Birds of the World', which was amazing as it had parrots and lots of other types of birds. They flew overhead and almost landed on someone's head! Overall, it was a brilliant trip as we saw lots of animals that you can't usually see in the UK.' **Jacob**

Our students took so many great photos at Whipsnade that we couldn't fit them in the magazine. Scan the QR code above to see an online gallery of them.



Our Year 8s set off for their camp at Longridge to enjoy activities from raft building and paddle boarding to climbing and laser tag. Ed and James told us about a trip full of challenges and fun.

Year 8 camp was great fun, and it had a lot of exciting activities. When we arrived, the camp was a bit different from what I expected it to look like as I didn't think there would be a rather big building at the campsite. My favorite activities were kayaking, rock climbing and laser tag. The other activities were fun, but they weren't as much fun. I brought a four-man tent for my group, and it was a lot harder to put away than to set up. I learnt that the easiest way to put away a four-man tent is with four people using teamwork and working together to try and fit the groundsheet in its ridiculously small bag. I also heard that some activities required several people to complete successfully, such as in crate stacking; there are three people on the tower of crates and two people passing crates, while there are three teams of people making sure the people on the tower are safe and their harnesses are secure.

A few weeks ago, we set off on the best school trip at Waddesdon so far: Year 8 camp! At Year 8 camp, as well as getting the opportunity to spend a night camping with your peers, the daylight hours are just as much, if not more, fun. Laser tag, crate stacking, kayaking and stand up paddleboarding are just a few of the amazing activities we got to take part in on Year 8 camp. Most importantly, however, Year 8 camp helps you to work and collaborate better with people you don't know so well. Overall, Year 8 camp is a brilliant experience that all younger students should be looking forward to.

"The annual visit to Longridge Activity Centre for Year 8 activity day was action packed and is an experience staff and students alike will remember. As a Head of Year, it was endearing to see the community formed within the group at camp, and I hope the memories of the visit are carried through to Year 11 and beyond." **Mr Nilan**





For their activity day, Year 9 visited Willen Lake for a day of splashing in the water and swinging in the trees!

The whole Willen Lake trip was a great experience. We got on the bus around 9am and while it was quite a long journey, it was definitely worth it. Once we got there we went straight to our first activity.

My friends and I got to do raft building first. It was brilliant! We had to work as a team to build a raft with the provided equipment. The instructors showed you how to do specific knots to make the base of the raft then add barrels underneath and prayed we stayed afloat.

In the water, we played a variety of games and challenges. If you didn't compete the challenge, you had to do a forfeit like jumping in the water. Everyone got wet and some of our rafts collapsed, but we had

a great time; it was my personal favourite activity.

All of us had a chance to go on the High Ropes course. There were three levels: low, medium and high, and even the teachers had a go. It was really fun to challenge ourselves to get past the different obstacles. After lunch my group got to do archery tag. We had arrows

with foam at the end and we were allowed to hit each other with the arrows. We had a great time. Other groups got to do sailing or Mega Stand-Up Paddleboarding, both of which looked exciting.

Overall, I think we should go to Willen Lake again as we all had a lovely time.



Our Year 10 activity involved team building and problem solving. But would our tasks build teams or break them? Timmy was there to find out.

The Year 10 Activity Day was presented as a way to bring the year together, strengthen bonds and make friends. I, for one, was sceptical of the idea considering the fact that we are 4 years into our time at Waddesdon and a day like this would really have helped in Year 7 or 8, right? I was wrong.

The day gave everyone the chance to work together and build strategies to solve problems with people in their group, eventually finding the ideal team dynamic

needed to perfect each task.

The end of the day saw the final and most thrilling and enjoyable activity by far; one that took intense physical effort, large amounts of strategy, trial and error, and simple yet fascinating displays of physics and the power you can only wield with a team by your side.

All of the teams worked amongst themselves to come up with insane and innovative ways to complete the seemingly impossible task of

passing a baton over a gap no wider than a few meters at its peak... It sounds easy but trust me, it wasn't (especially not when your group has the smallest average height by approximately twelve and a half feet!)

With groups using ingenious strategies and incredible displays of puzzle solving prowess, we all pulled through, and worked together to achieve what none of us could have done alone.





It has been great to attend some football tournaments this year and the girls who have played have shown determination and grit in their performance. The KS4 team played well against Cottesloe early in the year and competed with vigour at a tournament in April against a number of teams who regularly play together.

The Year 7 and 8 combined team performed really well in a tournament at AVA and came first in their initial round of games. They went on to play in another tournament at John Colet and again played really well as a team, scoring from some fantastic assists and skilled passing.

The overall results placed us 5th. However, we were just one point away from 3rd place and only in 5th place due to goal difference! It was a very close competition indeed. Thanks to all the girls who have come to training and attended fixtures. We hope to have an even busier year during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Primary School Festivals

The Sports Leaders have shown consistently amazing leadership skills delivering sessions to pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6, starting in January with an extremely busy badminton festival. Since then they have led sessions for football, benchball, multiskills and athletics.

Their last commitment before gaining their Sports Leader's award was the Year 6 transition games. 250 Year 6 pupils attended this day and the sessions that they planned showcased the skills they learnt this year through the support and guidance of Mrs Cook.

This group of Year 12 leaders have been brilliant, and the talent they have shown when leading sessions, adapting to change and enthusing and motivating the younger pupils has been evident throughout. Well done, Year 12 Sports Leaders. You have been brilliant!

Cricket

This season the U13 and U15 teams were placed in a league pitted against Royal Latin School, Akeley Wood School and Cottesloe School.

Both year groups played in good spirits and the students approached each game with ferocious desire to find the boundary with each ball and claim as many ducks or wickets as possible.

The highlights include Will Curtis 53 not out v. Akeley Wood. He also claimed 2 – 18 when bowling. Will has also stepped up to play U15 cricket and v. Royal Latin School he made 30 not out. The best bowler in this game was Sam Brown who bowled 2-17. The U13's were victorious against Cottesloe and drew against Royal Latin. Despite battling bravely and some fantastic individual performances, the U15's narrowly lost each of their matches.



This year our Year 7 and 8 boys and girls put themselves forward to compete and win the triathlon event. This event was a team event with the student swimming in a relay of 6, then cycling on a static bike in pods of 3 before completing a 200m continual relay. The total number of laps swum, metres peddled and run were tallied up.

Our athletes set about the challenge of gaining the biggest distance they could, straining every sinew

and gulping air in between strokes. They faced 15 other schools that competed at different times across the day.

This meant that they needed to remain focused and to encourage each other when their teammates started to falter. It is this that set Waddesdon School apart and allowed the boys to secure a top half of the league position and the girls team to claim a magnificent second place.



Year 7 Girls Sport

In their first year at Waddesdon School, the Year 7 girls have shown outstanding commitment to all sports. They have attended training without fail and competed in matches with such passion and determination.

We have had record numbers of students training every week and have created even more competitive teams for Year 8. It has been a pleasure coaching these girls and we are very proud of their achievements.

We started with the hockey season and straight away we could see that

this year's group were going to be unstoppable. They quickly learnt the game, bonded as a team and finished the season only losing one game!

Netball season then quickly took over and the 'A' team came 3rd in the District league, to qualify for the County Netball Finals where they played all the best teams in Buckinghamshire. This is an achievement that they should be proud of. The 'B' team came 4th out of 10 in their league, competing against some 'A' teams from other schools and finishing the season with love and enjoyment for the

game. Many of our netball players have now also been selected to play for clubs outside of school and I personally can't wait for next season!

If we thought the netball and hockey seasons were good, rounders was even better! The Year 7 rounders team finished the season undefeated. The results that these teams have produced is all down to their commitment and determination. What a wonderful first year playing sport for Waddesdon School! Thank you and well done to all students involved.

Recognising ENRICHMENT



Wednesday 21st June was not only 'Thank a Teacher Day', but also saw the inaugural Buckinghamshire Schools Awards. A ceremony held at Pinewood Studios brought together almost 30 schools from right across the county, all nominated for the hard work and dedication of their school communities. Waddesdon's Enrichment Team was nominated for the Inclusion Award, which recognises schools that 'positively and proactively raise achievement for all, eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster positive relationships throughout the school and wider community'.

Having undergone two rounds of anonymous judging panels, and up against incredibly strong competition, we won! The judges highlighted the way the whole Enrichment Team embody the values of dignity

and respect, seeing each student as an individual, as well as being integral parts of the whole school community. Congratulations to the Enrichment Team on their success!

'I really like Enrichment. The staff in Enrichment are very helpful and understanding. I feel able to talk about how I feel to them as they're very inviting. Enrichment gives me space to be who I want without being judged. It's a great part of the school.'

'Enrichment is a good calming place if you need a quiet space. The LSAs are very supportive.'

'The Enrichment Team have helped me learn and one of the team helps me get over it when I'm cross or sad. They try and give me a good education.'

The views and opinions expressed in the Waddesdon Voice are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Waddesdon Church of England School. The publisher (Waddesdon CE School), authors and contributors reserve their rights with regards to copyright of their work.

No part of this magazine may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the school Headteacher.

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.

