



Ground BREAKING

Spring 2024



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About the cover

This term's cover shows Year 9's Phoebe and Emily helping Mrs Chapman put the finishing touches to their art piece representing the empty tomb from the Easter story. You can hear more about it in Mr Abbott's column on this page and about the other pieces in our Easter sculpture trail on page 8.



From the Headteacher

Now that building work has begun on our new Sixth Form Centre, I am tempted to open this edition of the Voice with a variation on an old joke:

"A large hole has appeared in Waddesdon School field. Students are looking into it!"

This work is the culmination of three years of intense work and dedication from our Governing Body, our Head of Sixth Form, Miss McIver, and our Finance Manager, Ms Nicholas. It will fill a gap in the curriculum that we provide for our young adults, enhance their educational experience enormously and enable us to build a deeper relationship with partners such as Waddesdon Manor and Estate.

The late Lord Rothschild, and the Trustees at the Rothschild Foundation, are major donors for this project. You will see photos opposite of the Ground-breaking Ceremony, attended by Hannah Rothschild CBE, her two sisters and two of Lord Rothschild's grandchildren. Amongst many other guests, we were also delighted to welcome Milly Soames, Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and Mimi Harker OBE, Vice Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council, also a major contributor to this project through Section 106 funding. We were also joined by alumni, including British Olympic Bobsleigh Champion Nikki McSweeney.

The Ground-breaking Ceremony was beautifully introduced by Head Student, Ben Jarrett. He was accompanied by his fellow Heads of School, who you can see in the pictures opposite. We also marked the notable absence of Lord Rothschild



Matthew Abbott

who passed away on 26th February, and announced the re-naming of the building as the Jacob Rothschild Sixth Form Building. Lord Rothschild leaves a hole in the local community, but also a legacy for our young people which I am delighted his family wish to continue to champion.

In this edition, as you will have seen from the front cover, we also celebrate a 'ground-breaking' art installation thanks to Mrs Chapman and a team of students. Based loosely around the Stations of the Cross, these artworks and sculptures invite our young people to consider what the Easter story means to them. The one on the front is the final installation – the empty tomb.

Every Easter we are invited to consider the Easter story and its meaning for us. At the risk of stretching my metaphor too far, I do wonder if the empty tomb could be seen as another hole which may merit a more thoughtful 'looking into'.

Wishing everyone a joyful and peaceful Easter, full of hope.

FAREWELL and Thank You

There are two members of staff leaving us this term, and we'd like to say thank you to them and to wish them all the best for the future.



Miss Osborne



Mr Marshall



On 12th March, along with the other Heads of School, I attended the Ground-breaking Ceremony for the new Sixth Form building. Attending the event were members of the Rothschild Family, local councillors, representatives from Buckinghamshire Council and many of the key professionals involved in developing the new building. The event celebrated the commencement of work on the new building, the opportunities the building can provide to future generations of Waddesdon students, and the importance of our wider education.

Ben Jarrett (Head Boy) opened the ceremony, by sincerely thanking all involved on behalf of the student body and reflecting on the bittersweet moment for the current Year 13: we have been actively involved in the planning process, but we will not get to see it in action as students. However, we are proud that this is part of the legacy that we, as student leaders, are leaving to future generations of Waddesdon students.

The Ground-breaking Ceremony for our new Sixth Form Centre brought together friends of Waddesdon School who have all contributed to making our new building possible. Year 13's Alice spoke on behalf our Heads of School as she told us about this very special event.





Mr Abbott then spoke and credited the late Lord Jacob Rothschild for his involvement with the new building, announcing it will be named after him due to his passion for education and his vision for all students, regardless of background, to access and benefit from it.

Hannah Rothschild spoke on behalf of her family, giving prominence to Lord Rothschild's commitment to education and his joy when talking about the project. Although proudly involved in other building projects around the world throughout his life, she emphasized that our new Sixth Form building was the one he was most excited to talk about and be involved in.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate and thank all of those who have been involved in making the new building a reality including:



Buckinghamshire Council, the Rothschild Foundation, Waddesdon Manor and Estate, Mr Pye (school governor), Ms Nicholas (our school Business Manager) Miss McIver (our Head of Sixth Form) and the Sixth Form Team, eco-friendly ambassadors, members of the wider community and many others who have all played an active role in shaping the development of the Jacob Rothschild Building. We are excited that the new building will help us develop stronger links for our education with Waddesdon Manor and Estate, through their Education Department led by Mrs Dewberry.

Despite the rain, we were able to take photographs to mark the official ground-breaking. After multiple combinations of groups for photographs, we were able to get out of the rain and enjoy canapés while conversing with people in attendance



at the event.

The Ground-breaking Ceremony spotlighted the new opportunities for future Waddesdon students whilst bringing everyone together who made it possible. On behalf of my fellow students, I would like to give further thanks to everyone who has been involved in the development of this new building. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Abbott and the late Lord Rothschild, as without their shared interest in education and creating environments in which students can flourish, we would not be able to celebrate this new Sixth Form building. I am delighted about the prospects for future Waddesdon students with the new Jacob Rothschild building and give final thanks to all those who were able to make it happen.



More Photos



From the Chaplain



“I hope that we can take the combination of excitement and uncertainty that comes with anything new and embrace both. I suspect that’s the way we grow into new things.”

As he leaves Aylesbury and his time as our Chaplain, Phil White reminds us that there is both hope and fear in breaking new ground.

We’d like to thank Phil for the time and love he has put into his work with us at Waddesdon School, and to wish him all the best for the future.

In 2003 I moved to a new housing estate called Hamilton in Leicester to start a church there. All that had been there beforehand had been farmers' fields. It really did feel like breaking new ground. No houses had been there for centuries and when we moved in there were no shops, bus service, etc. The most difficult thing was that there was almost no sense of community.

I like doing new things and so for me there was quite a lot of excitement at starting something new. I remember my first Monday morning, waking up and asking myself the question: “What shall I do today?” My diary was empty and so I found myself getting to know the builders and contractors working around the estate.

Yes, I was excited by the new things but hand in hand were the difficult things: we had no friends there, building new things is demanding, and metaphorically speaking, the ground had not been ploughed for a long time - it was hard work.

We will all face having to break new ground in our lives - you will all leave Waddesdon and go to college or university or start work. This will be both exciting and daunting. Most of you will move into that new season with hopes and dreams. Your first day studying independently at college or university - because you have chosen to. Your first wage packet will bring many new opportunities. However, you will not know how things work, you will start out as little fish in a big pond, you will likely know very little about your new study or work. Scary too, isn't it?

There's certainly an element of celebration about the new ground-breaking Sixth Form Centre for Waddesdon. What an amazing new addition it will be for the school! I hope and pray that there will be no negatives to this and only celebration. Mind you, there will certainly be some parts of the building which will not work so well and will have to be fixed by the contractors - the 'snagging list'!

My wife and I are retiring in May to Frome in Somerset and this will certainly be breaking new ground for us. We are looking

forward to it but are aware that we leave behind us our friends, our church and our home here.

I wonder if the first disciples that Jesus called to follow him felt the same? The gospels simply tell us they left their nets and their fishing boats and followed Jesus - wow!

I hope that we can take the combination of excitement and uncertainty that comes with anything new and embrace both. I suspect that's the way we grow into new things. I'm certain Jesus would have encouraged his new friends as they stepped out into the new. May we all know God's peace and joy as we step into the unknown and break new ground.

I would like to thank you all for the way you have welcomed me into the Waddesdon community. It has been a very special time for me and I will remember it warmly as I move into retirement. Waddesdon school certainly is an amazing school and I'm proud to have been a small part of it for the last 6 years or so.



Our GreenPower team goes into a third year of competition with new ambitions, new team members... and a third car. Old hands Sophie and Tom from Year 10 tell us about familiar pressures, new challenges, and the anticipation of a new season around the corner.

FORMULA THREE

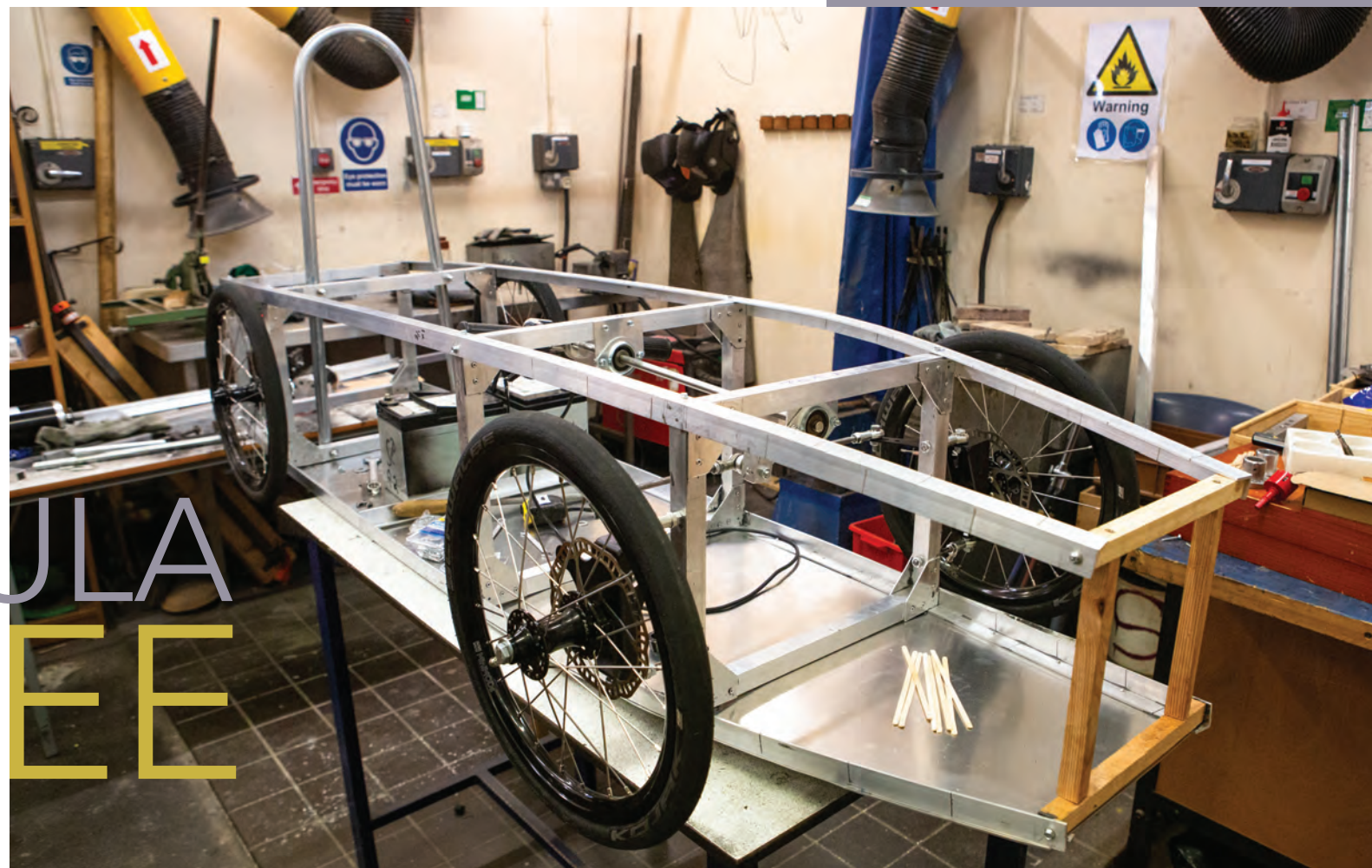
Since our first GreenPower meeting back in 2021, the Waddesdon GreenPower team has tripled in size. Three cars, three teams and that means three times the work in order to get a fully constructed car for each team before the 2024 season begins.

As always, we had set ourselves a new challenge when we chose to construct another car, our goal being to craft another scratch car... but faster, lighter and bigger than the last!

Over the years, the Waddesdon GreenPower team have built an F24 electric scratch car and disassembled and reassembled an F24 electric kit car numerous times. Currently, the new team (consisting of Year 8s) get the classic task of deconstructing the first car so they can rebuild and paint it to their heart's content. The Year 9 team, however, have the job of the second car in their hands and are currently in the process of reconstruction, having begun

to attach the wheels and have started to think about the car's aesthetic.

Finally, the Year 10 team have set out to fulfil the goal of a third car. Whilst the car is once again being made out of aluminium, we have designed it to be longer to accommodate the taller team members, as well as crafting the structure to the style of the faster and more successful cars from the tracks.



The new car has proven to be a difficult challenge as we have been trying to build a light and aerodynamic vehicle. At the moment the new car is purely pieces of aluminium stuck together with the raw-fish smelling, sloppy toothpaste-like substance known as "JB Weld". Whilst this material sounds disgusting and has an unpleasant consistency, without it the car would function more like a cardboard box than a Formula

One race car. It has been our saviour through all our trials and tribulations over the course of constructing cars.

As we edge closer to the start of the 2024 season, pressure is beginning to build and permeate the atmosphere in the workshop. The difficulty of finding sponsors to help produce three cars to take to the tracks has now proven to be a tough challenge, as well as the gradual decrease in time to practise

driver change-overs and test runs on the Waddesdon Race Track, most commonly known as "the tennis courts". Both of these practices are crucial to help minimise time spent in the Pit Lane and allow maximum time on the track where we can complete more miles, putting us ahead of opponents.

Although there is tension as the first race comes closer, we are all thrilled for the adventure of another year. The early morning starts, the chaos of finding our paddock and the suspense of waiting for all team members to arrive: What isn't there to love? As we look forward to the races and the hope that no motors will need a cooling system for passing the level of being "Coffee Hot", we continue to flourish in our mighty craft of constructing F24 cars.



Altar PIECES

Our Christian Art Group have created an Easter art trail around the school, with a series of thought-provoking pieces examining themes around the Easter story. Year 9's Emily and Phoebe told us about the ideas behind their creation, and some of our Year 7s gave their thoughts on exploring the trail.



In our Christian Ethos Group meeting earlier this term, we talked about making a trail around the school that would tell the Christian Easter story. We decided to design a series of art installations, each loosely representing a station of the cross.

It was important to us that people from all faith backgrounds would be able to relate to the Easter story, so we thought of the key themes: thankfulness, kindness, betrayal, desperation, lies, heaviness and hope.

The Christian Art Group was asked to make the art pieces for the

installations. Rather than creating a detailed depiction of each stage in the Easter story, we made the installations so that they were more symbolic of the story and themes. We enjoyed using different media and styles of art to create the pieces for this project, like willow binding and graffiti art.

We hope everyone in the Waddesdon community can enjoy interpreting the installations in their own way, connecting with the Easter story emotionally, thoughtfully, and perhaps even spiritually.

'I thought the tomb was the most

interesting because it represented having new life.' Philip

'The Last Supper installation made us think about enjoying life while you still can.' Mia, Aryan, Maya

'I like the fact that the graffiti gave a modern day spin to an old story.' Eliza

'The crucifixion station gave me an understanding of how Jesus suffered.' Charlie

'I like how the art showed that in the garden his thoughts were tangled up.' Hattie



Creative CONNECTIONS

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A group of students from Year 12 attended a series of talks by people who work in creative careers. While their experiences were quite different, most of them involved connections with Waddesdon School as Zoha tells us.

Year 12 students who take creative subjects had the opportunity to hear from a range of amazing guest speakers at the 'Creative Careers' showcase.

Firstly, hearing from Sean Turner, an artistic director of Trinity Theatre, students got the rare insight into the directing field, learning about the range of roles in the theatrical industry. Sean used his own experience to guide us on how to turn your passion into a career, with examples of his works as a director, including, "The Miraculous Misadventures of Robin Hood". Sean inspired us to explore industries that you typically would not have considered as there is a place for everyone to flourish.

Students also got to hear from their very own teachers, Mrs. Chapman and Mr. Judson, and their unique journeys to Waddesdon School. Their roles in the creative industry displayed how there is not always a one-way path to a career.

Mrs. Chapman gave an incredible first-hand account of facing rejection and continuing to work towards a career in web designing that she was ardent in pursuing, while Mr. Judson shared with us the array of jobs he took up to make his career as a musician possible. Both success stories truly inspired us Year 12s as it showed us the dedication it takes to achieve one's goals, while helping us appreciate our teachers' individual backgrounds and what it took for them to be standing here today, teaching Waddesdon pupils.

We also heard from Mr. Peck, who carries an imperative role within our school, as a graphic designer and photographer. Next time you see a Waddesdon poster in the corridors, students will know Mr. Peck's hard work and creative design is behind it!

Rory Scrivener, who is an ex-Waddesdon student, who pursued an apprenticeship working in I.T. at Waddesdon, has since gone on to other creative paths. He started off as a sports graphics designer, mainly for darts and football matches, then moved on to real-estate photography. He showcased versatility in his career, giving us another fine example of how fluid and varied the creative industry can be. He combines his work with his love for travel, displaying to us how life isn't all work and no play.

In my opinion, the Creative Careers showcase came at a prime time for Year 12s, as we are beginning to figure out what to do when we leave post-16 education, whether it's moving on to higher education, getting an apprenticeship or maybe going straight into work. This opportunity opened up many possibilities for students and inspired us all.



Our Design Technology students in Year 12 have been building sliding tambour doors. Elanas talks us through the design and construction process from start to finish.

At the beginning of the September term we were tasked with creating a Tambour Door Project. We were given a design brief, and given multiple tasks to

complete to begin with before creating the product. The product we were tasked to create was a tambour door, a type of door which involves many slats/strips of wood backed by a piece of fabric to create a door that can curve around bends and operate as a sliding door. Other than this we were given creative freedom so long as we could find all the materials we needed in the workshop.

We all chose different routes to go down, with some projects aiming to store shoes, others storing office

supplies and someone going down the route of creating a wine rack. We all began by sketching initial design ideas and then creating cardboard models of the ideas to allow us to iterate the designs. We then moved into a CAD (Computer Aided Design) program called Fusion 360, which allowed us to bring our design ideas to life through a digital 3D model of our work.

After generating working drawings through CAD, we moved to the manufacturing phase, with some of us beginning by generating a 2D design file for laser cutting, to allow our tambour door to slide accurately across a channel, and others choosing to use a router to route the channel. We all had to select our timber, which was recycled from local companies that donate timber to the school, or teachers who donate timber to the Design and Technology Department. We all used the bandsaw to cut the timber to the dimensions on the working drawings, and to begin to assemble the projects, we used wood glue and a range of fastenings.

We all had to endure long and painful hours of sanding to ensure the timber was smooth and ready for the surface finish, this being a key part of our projects to ensure they all looked as good as they could, ready for the end users. After the surface finishes were applied, and the final snags looked at, we had concluded our project. The project taught us some key CAD/CAM, along with wood processes, and operations of various machines, and overall joined us all as a class.



Thanks to all the students and staff who rushed to give me their answers to last issue's inaugural "Dipple's Dilemma". My favourite entry was written out beautifully by Harry Carter (7SC) who won himself some chocolate for his endeavours. I would love to have some entries from parents this term!

The puzzle this term concerns palindromes (a palindrome is something that reads the same backwards as forwards, my personal favourite being "I prefer pi").

Hannah has a boyfriend, Bob, who drives a racecar! The mileage on his car shows 15,951 miles. Bob noticed that the number is palindromic (it reads the same forwards as backwards). He thinks to himself that this is very unusual and it will take ages before this happens again. He continues driving (within the speed limit of course) and 2 hours later is surprised to see a new palindromic number. How fast was the car travelling over the 2 hour journey?

Entries to me in person or on Teams please, or by email if you are a parent/carer (mdipple01@waddesdonschool.com). Good luck!

RECIPE *for Success*

Year 11 Food students Mia and Connie have cooked up a storm in the kitchen in their GCSE finals year. Miss Watts caught up with them to discover their secret ingredient.

You have been chosen to feature in the Waddesdon Voice because you have shown a real determination to do well this year. How does this make you feel?

Mia: I am pleased. I think this is a good reason to be featured in the Waddesdon Voice.

Connie: Hopefully, someone will read this and be inspired to do well.

What do you think influenced you to change your approach at the start of Year 11?

Mia: I was fed up of being told off, and I started to realise it was not

the time to mess about. I wanted to get better grades and feel proud of myself.

Do you feel supported by the school and your teachers?

Mia: Yes, teachers want to support you, to do the best you can.

What are your plans for Year 12?

Connie: I'm staying on for Sixth Form. I hope to study for A-levels in PE, Applied Science, and Graphics.

Mia: I really want to stay and study Food Science and Nutrition, Sociology, and Geography.

Did you always think you would stay at Waddesdon?

Connie: Yes, absolutely.

Mia: No, I wanted to do a beauty apprenticeship because I did not want to study any more. But now I think if I do A-levels I can keep my options open and maybe have a career in beauty or food.

Connie, what do you want to do when you leave?

Connie: Be a PE teacher. I need the GCSE grades to stay on in Sixth Form and then go to university to become a

PE teacher.

Connie, who has been your biggest inspiration?

Connie: Miss Cook. Definitely Miss Cook and Miss Smaldon.

Mia, do you have anyone who inspired you?

Mia: Probably you.

You have produced excellent dishes for your GCSE Food exam. What advice might you give others who want to do well in their subjects?

Mia: Listen to your teachers, they want to help you.

Connie: Focus.

Mia: Don't just listen in Year 11, start in Year 9; it's important.

Who or what has kept you motivated to do well this year?

Connie: Friends and family encourage me.

Mia: Thinking of how proud I will be when I achieve the grades I want in the summer.

Thank you so much!

BIG NIGHT

The Big Gig returned to Waddesdon in February, as we saw our finest musicians take to the stage in a two-hour showcase to remember. Year 9's Josh performed throughout the evening in several bands, and he caught up with us to give the lowdown on performing at this high-profile event.

The Big Gig was an amazing experience for my friends and me as it was our first time participating in the event.

In our music lessons we worked really hard on making sure that our piece, 'Tennessee Whiskey' by Chris Stapleton, was in top condition, practising at lunch and breaks as well. I was also in another band playing '30,000 Feet' by Ben Rector, as well as playing with the Worship Band and performing 'Meant to Live' by Switchfoot. We put in lots of rehearsals and preparation at home, as well.

The night started at 7pm and ran to 9pm. Each performance was about 5 minutes long, with roughly 25 bands/songs in the line-up. The lighting and sound on the show was absolutely AMAZING!! The Big Gig looked very professional and someone who didn't know it was a school probably could have thought it was a New York music concert!

My personal highlight was when I had my big sax solo which was incredibly hard, but which – thankfully – I made it through. I practised it a lot at home, with my headphones on, listening to the track and playing along to it. I'm pretty sure I annoyed my family, I played the song so much.

Another highlight would be when my friend Jake (drummer) absolutely smashed his first time performing in a band; he made sure no





More Photos

one could have done the job better.

The grand finale with the Funk Band was so up-beat and exhilarating it got everyone to their feet and dancing. With 15 of us, the songs were very loud and chaotic but in a very, very good way! The Funk Band is made up of a 7-piece horn section and an 8-piece rhythm section, plus singers.

The great thing about the Funk Band is that I have met so many new people that I wouldn't be friends with if Mr Judson and Mr Dimond hadn't given me this opportunity for which I am very, very grateful.

I also loved watching my friends and my music class perform, part of the fun being cheering them on. A shout out

to the band that did 'Classic' by MKTO and the group who did 'Line Without a Hook' by Rick Montgomery.

Overall, all the performances were really good and I'm already so excited for WaddFest60 in the summer.



Art WORK

We recently welcomed the Learning Team from Waddesdon Manor, who showed our students that there is an amazing range of careers in the world of art. Year 12's Sarah and Sophia were inspired.

Throughout the spring term, the Art and History departments organised many workshops to explore the History of Art, which all students were invited to attend, to extend and enrich our curriculum beyond the classroom.

On Wednesday 13th March, we discussed potential career paths that are available in 'the Art World'. We were amazed by the range of options, including apprenticeships, virtual work experience and even an EPQ. This session was very informative as we were able to talk to different people who specialise in a range of industries.

This included a visit from guest

speakers who work at Waddesdon Manor; they were kind enough to bring in a beautiful and delicate porcelain set. We were given the chance to explore how Mia Jackson, Curator, Decorative Arts, takes care of these artefacts and displays them in Waddesdon Manor. She explained to us the importance of her job and the pathways through which she was able to achieve it.

We then were spoken to by Sarah Dewberry, Head of Education, who is responsible for organising visits to Waddesdon Manor with schools like ours. We found this particularly interesting because she initially chose a different career path, and it offered us reassurance as it showed

our decisions are not set in stone. We were inspired by the passion these speakers had and they clearly love their jobs at Waddesdon Manor.

Finally, we were spoken to by Rose Aidin, CEO Art History Link-Up, who told us about the opportunities that she offers, and her partnership with the auction house, Christies. We were interested in the number of different opportunities on offer, and it allowed us to explore ideas about future career paths that we might take, including the apprenticeship route.

Thank you, Mr Abbott, for organising the workshop and to all the external speakers who inspired us!





More Photos

VIEW FINDERS

Our Year 10 photographers hit the historic streets of Oxford, using a range of locations to practise working in different photographic genres. Isla and Riley put us in the picture.

On 6th February, Year 10 Photography students went to Oxford as part of a location project. Visiting the Bridge of Sighs, the Covered Market, Broad Street, the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Library, we explored three forms: street photography, fashion photography and architectural photography.

Street photography and fashion photography are focused on chance encounters and random incidents in public places, usually with the aim of capturing images at a decisive,

often unguarded, moment.

These forms of photography can also be used to publicise a movement or increase awareness of troubles in society, e.g. the Black Lives Matter movement, or homelessness. An influential photographer in this genre was Henri Cartier-Bresson – a famous street photographer who was a pioneer of candid photography, using crisp black and white film.

Architectural photography (also referred to as building photography or structure photography) generally means photography that focuses on buildings. It can include shooting building exteriors and interiors, as well as bridges, other structures, and cityscapes. As Oxford has intricate architectural buildings, we came back from the visit with about 200 photos each.

The purpose of this visit was not only to take individual photos in the

style of established photographers and in keeping with our location project, but also to take photos independently. We practised adjusting to different weather when taking photos, and learning to change the camera settings in different environments, for example white balance and shutter speed.

To organize our photos in preparation for editing, we put them on contact sheets to see them all at once, cutting unsuccessful photos, and selecting the best ones. In editing, we can adjust the lighting, increase colour exposure, and introduce light leaks, making different patterns of light overlap within the photo to increase drama. Eventually, we will print 6 – 8 best edited photos and present them in our GCSE work next year.

This visit has really helped us expand our photography knowledge and helped us develop our skills for the future.





It was World Book Day recently, and our students enjoyed a range of opportunities to celebrate books and reading. We were even able to share the love with some special guests. Year 7's Elysa, Sahithiya and Nina told us more.

In our World Book Day assembly we heard about a famous man called Benjamin Zephaniah who was a talented poet and writer. He even became a vegetarian at the age of 11 just because he loved animals so much!

Our school did a quiz together about William Shakespeare quotes in a game of 'Batman or Bard' which the whole school enjoyed. Near the end of the

assembly, we listened to a recording of Benjamin Zephaniah reading his poem 'People Will Always Need People' which was a beautiful way of reminding us just how powerful poetry can be.

For World Book Day, our library had so many fun activities for students to complete.

There were sheets of emoji codes



which represented the names of famous books; this activity was a personal favourite of mine. There was also a shredded book in a jar that people had to figure out, which was a challenge for many, but it was a wonderfully thought-provoking activity.

Not only that, but there was even a shelf of free second hand books of many genres and for a variety of ages. I personally loved this because it allowed people's minds to be exposed to many different types of books. Overall, our library and staff made World Book Day such a wonderful experience for so many students, including myself, so I would like to say thank you to everyone involved.

In the last period of the day, we welcomed the children from Little Oaks Pre-school into our school library and read with them. Because it was World Book Day, they came dressed as their favourite book characters. We all had a great time reading stories and talking about who they were dressed up as.

It was up to them to choose which book we read to them. I enjoyed this because we got to enjoy stories together.



MIND YOUR OWN Business!

Our Year 7s recently took part in a Build a Business day where they were encouraged to create products and then to pitch their business ideas. Evie tells us more.

Build a Business day was overall a fun day where we got to speak to someone who had made their own dental practice.

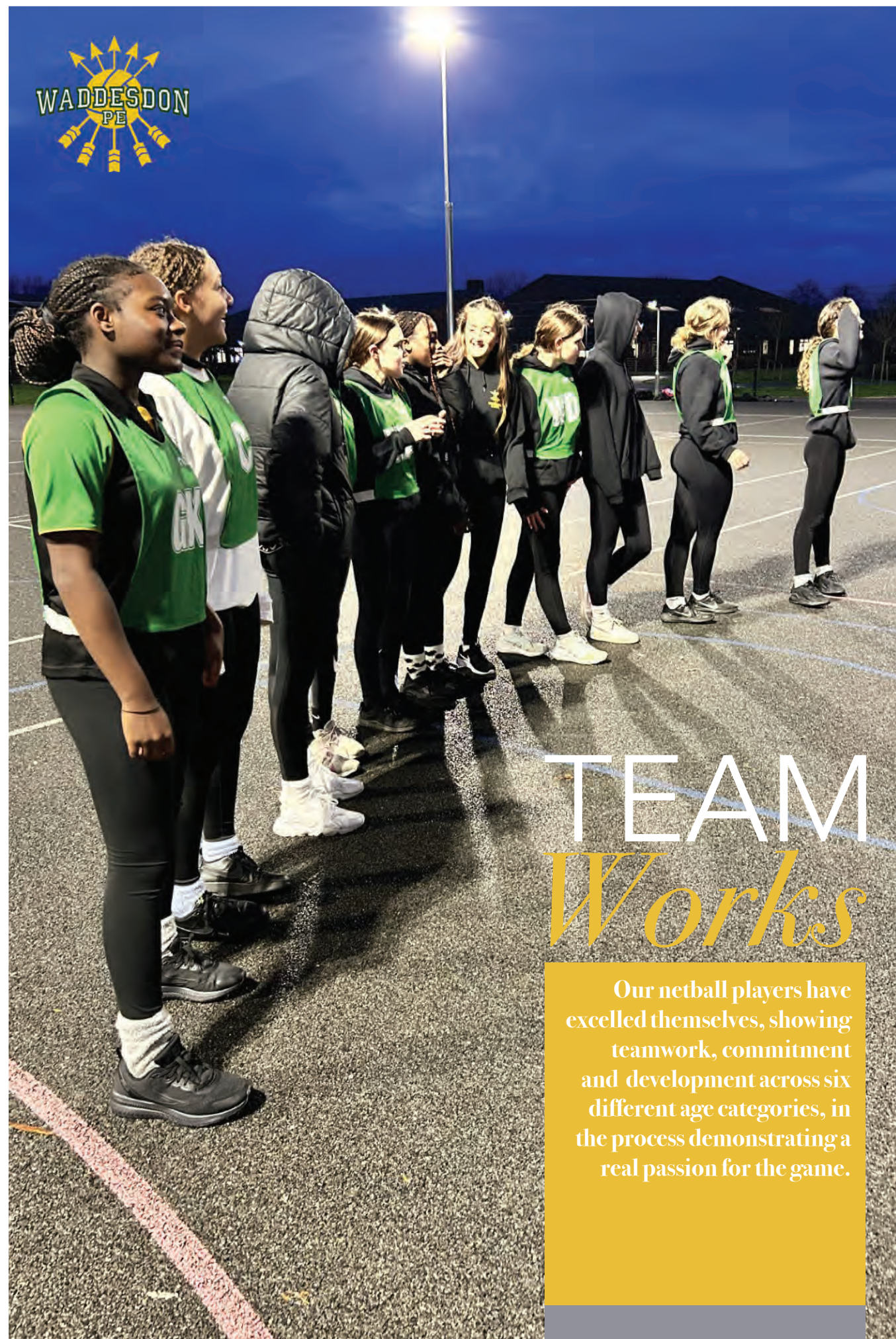
We were assigned into groups and decided who would have what role (e.g., Creative Director).

The things we designed were to help and give back to the school community. Items included desk organisers and some groups even did therapy!

At CP, at the end of the day, we presented and pitched our presentation/product to our form. The winners then went head-to-head to decide the overall winner.

The final groups had to pitch to Miss Popat, Mr. Cahill, and the student Heads of School.





TEAM *Works*

Our netball players have excelled themselves, showing teamwork, commitment and development across six different age categories, in the process demonstrating a real passion for the game.



The netball season has come to an end and what a season it has been, with 12 teams playing 78 matches, giving over 200 girls the opportunity to take part in competitive games and training. We couldn't be prouder of how committed all our netballers have been. We have had record numbers of girls attending training and working hard to improve their skills, giving us our most successful season to date.

The U18 team were full of energy and enthusiasm, adapting as a squad every game. They are wonderful

netball players and it has been a privilege to see how their netball has developed over their years at Waddesdon. A lot of our players are now playing for clubs and regional teams outside of school.

We are the only school in the district to enter two U16 netball teams into the league. In a year that is very busy and demanding for them, they have shown great commitment to the team and played the best netball we have ever seen them play, beating many local schools.

The U15 netball teams are full of raw talent, and it has been exciting to see some new players come into the squads and make a real impact. They have a fighting spirit and never give up. I am sure they will work hard to achieve their full potential in Year 11.

The U14 netball squads are bursting with enthusiasm and determination. Year 9 have had record numbers of girls attending training and have shown such passion all season. They are developing into wonderful netball players due to their commitment and drive for success.

The U13 squad comprises three teams, allowing all girls who attend training the opportunity to play in a competitive match. There is so much talent in Year 8 and we are so excited to see how they will develop as a squad throughout the next few years. It is such a privilege to be able to coach such a committed and competitive group of girls.

Our U12 netball squads have had so much success throughout their first netball season. They have grown in confidence and skills, winning many of their league matches. We have high hopes for their netballing future.

At Waddesdon we pride ourselves on creating opportunities for as many students as possible to take part in sport and competitive matches, whilst developing the talent of our top athletes. We couldn't be prouder of all of our netballers and can't wait for next season!





Head of the CLASS

Year 13's Ryuji had the opportunity to share the benefit of his Filipino heritage with a class of Year 7 English students recently. They told us what an enlightening and enjoyable experience it was.

Did you know that only 1% of students study a book at GCSE by a person of colour and only 7% study a book at GCSE by a woman (Runnymede Trust, 2021)?

At Waddesdon, we believe in the importance of diversifying our literary curriculum. While GCSE texts are mandated nationally, we have flexibility over Key Stage 3 texts. Therefore, we have invested in enriching our English Department resources by adding the novel Bone Talk by the acclaimed author Candy Gourlay to our Year 7 curriculum this term.

Students were joined by Year 13's Ryuji, Deputy Head Boy, who gave a talk about the book.

This morning in period 1 was so exciting and interesting because Ryuji from the Sixth Form came in to talk to us about the Philippines. His parents came from there, so he was able to tell us lots and lots of things about it. **Carter**

Today I had the most interesting English lesson. A person called Ryuji came in and gave us an exquisite talk about his culture. I was engrossed by all these stimulating facts Ryuji told us, as he is

from the Philippines and has a deep understanding of their culture. I learnt a lot of intriguing facts but my favourite was that his dog went flying as it was so windy. Today has really deepened my knowledge of this book and his culture. **Alex**

Kumasta everyone! Now, if you are keen to know what 'kumasta' means, it means 'hello' in the Philippines. I learnt this word in an unusual, yet sensational and intriguing, English lesson taught by the wonderful Ryuji. In this lesson, we got a better understanding of the Philippines in the 1800s as well as clear



views about the book we have been reading and also the true story behind it. Ryuji filled us with information such as the meanings of names and characters. **Tiffany**

Did you know that in the Philippines they have purple potatoes? Ryuji said they are extremely sweet and are extraordinary. I was so engrossed in everything Ryuji was saying. **Alice**

Year 13 Ryuji happily came into our lesson with a sunshine smile on his face the moment everyone came

into the classroom. Our form, 7KT, asked several questions on postcards, but the thing we were most excited about was Ryuji answering our own questions! Firstly, Ryuji created a powerpoint about Filipinos and their culture. We learnt all about the Philippines and the destruction they had to go through during the War of Independence. Ryuji enjoyed answering our questions. Finally, to quote Ryuji, "always remember when following the Waddesdon way, every day is a sunny day!" **Katie**



Doodle Dandy

Some of our Year 7 art students have been attending Doodle Club after school, trying some new and fun art techniques ahead of an exhibition of their work in the Art Department. Here's what they enjoyed the most about the process.

I loved the Zentangles; I thought it was really calming and I like no pressure! **Caris**

I'm really glad how my work turned out, mainly because I could mess around with ideas. I loved how I could portray a ghost. **Arthur**

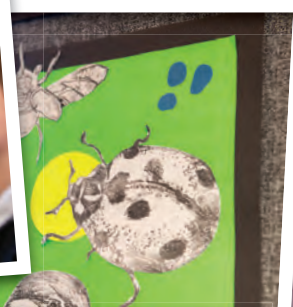
I liked illustrating a book cover. I've never used dip pen and ink before. It was a new experience! **Emma**

I loved the mono-printing. I never knew what it was before. The results were surprising! **Sophie**

I liked not knowing what was going to happen when playing Consequences! **Riley**

Monsters & Aliens were fun. I hope to pick Art as a GCSE. **Ava**

I liked how you could put your own style and twist into your illustrations. **Toby**



Calling all 13-to-15-year Olds!

**Free Introduction to Art History
course for state students**



What: Are you interested in Art? History? A career in the art world? In this free course we will be exploring art and identity, gender, and secrets and treasures. Refreshments, lunch and transport to and from central points will be provided.

Where: at Waddesdon Manor! (Waddesdon, Aylesbury HP18 0JH)

When: on Thursday 4th April 2024 from 10am to 3.30pm.

How: to apply email introduction@arthistorylinkup.org with the student's name, age and school, or any queries, and we will be in touch with more information.



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