



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a very exciting and productive half term for the staff and students of the school; one in which we have celebrated and achieved many things.

We have once again secured some fantastic examination results at GCSE, A Level and BTEC. At GCSE we are again above the National Average at Grade 4 and above for English, Maths and Science. Similarly, at Grade 5, we are above the National Average for English Language, Literature and Maths. Our post-16 results are equally as impressive: with the percentage of students achieving the top A Level grades increasing and the BTEC Average Grade having risen to a Distinction. We are rightly proud of the students who have achieved these results and we look forward to celebrating with them at Achievement Evening in December.

Our new mission statement, **Prepare, Aspire, Succeed** has been firmly embedded in school life and it forms the central focus for our new website. The school App is now available to download from the [website](#). This should allow you to receive key information and dates straight to your smart phone or other devices.



Our new Year 7s have had a great first half term and have really entered into the spirit of the Cottesloe Journey. A few weeks ago they attended a Character Residential where they put into practice the Cottesloe 6Cs through outdoor and adventurous activities. It was great to see the year group spend some time together and feedback has shown that the students valued this time away with their new peers and teachers.

[\[see video\]](#)

TEAM Hub has been successfully opened, allowing our Wellbeing and Safeguarding officers a purpose-built space in which to do their vital work of keeping our students safe and happy. They offer a range of interventions and support our new Year 12 and 13 Wellbeing Ambassadors, who were recently trained by Mind UK.

Last week's Open Evening was very well attended, as was the Open Morning, and the feedback we have had from parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive. We hope that all those students who attended will be joining us next September.



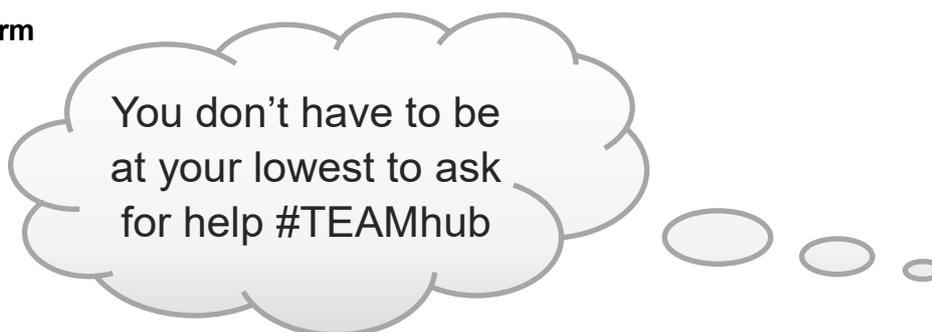
Mr Simon Jones
Headteacher

PSHCE: WELLBEING CHALLENGE

Over the half term challenge yourself to do as many of the following as possible, and as many times as you can:

Plan a fun activity to look forward to with a friend	Make time today to do something that you enjoy	Get active and give your mind a natural boost	Go to bed early one night
Read a book - an actual physical book	Connect with a friend and make a date to meet up	Write a 'to do' list	Set yourself a goal to achieve in the short term
Turn off your phone and spend a whole evening with a friend or your family	Carry out a random act of kindness	Clear out a space that you have responsibility for (wardrobe, bedroom etc.)	Ask someone how they are today

Thought for the half term



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The importance of good school attendance can never be underestimated. Each day of education missed can mean that students struggle to make up for lost learning as well as lost social time.

When we looked at The Cottesloe School Year 11 results for 2018-2019 and compared it to attendance rates the figures spoke for themselves:

Students who achieved a Pass in English and Maths GCSE compared with their attendance	
Attendance %	English and Maths Pass
95+	78%
90-95	69%
85-90	38%
80-85	33%

Please continue to support the school and your child by avoiding all holidays in term time and minimising time spent at medical appointments during the school day. Consider if the appointment is in the middle of the day could your child come in for an hour or two in the morning, go to the appointment and then be dropped back later? Thus missing only an hour or two of learning instead of a whole day.

Should your child be absent please call 01296 689720 before 8.40am on each and every day of absence clearly explaining the reason for absence. Please e-mail studentabsence@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk for any absence requests.

Mrs K Hardings
Attendance Officer

Meet the Team



Name: Louise Baldwin

Position/Role: Deputy Headteacher

How long have you been @ TCS? Since 1st September 2019.

What do you enjoy most about working @ TCS? TCS is a really great place to work and learn. So far, the very best thing is the positive relationships between staff and students, between students and between staff. Everyone wants the best for all students and tries their very hardest to help them achieve their potential. Students and staff are polite, friendly, welcoming and helpful; it's been lovely to get to know everyone and become part of the TCS family.

Favourite subject when you were at school, and why? At school I loved most subjects. As I grew older, I enjoyed Biology and Geography the most because I love learning about processes and how things work – what happens to keep a cell alive, or causes the weathering processes in a glaciated valley? I loved learning outside the classroom on fieldtrips and also had excellent teachers who inspired me to continue to study both subjects further at university.

Why did you become a teacher? I chose to become a Biology teacher because of the ever-increasing number of scientific discoveries being made and because I wanted to share my love of these ideas. There is a wealth of scientific knowledge of things that we didn't know anything about twenty years ago. The Human Genome project was reaching completion when I was an undergraduate at university; at that time we were excited about the avenues of research it would open up. We now know so much more knowledge about DNA, for example the analysis of similarities between DNA sequences from different organisms is expanding understanding within the study of evolution at a molecular level, leading to the reclassification of phylogenetic trees. There's a poster in my office that explains the current thinking on this, it's fascinating!

Who has been your biggest influence or inspiration? As scientists go, I think Charles Darwin was quite inspirational. He showed such courage and resilience as he battled for much for his adult life to develop and publish his theory of evolution, in time when most people in Victorian Britain were God-fearing citizens; to challenge the traditional way of thinking in the way he did was incredible. I'm also a big fan of Sir David Attenborough, someone who inspired my love of Biology and in particular, plants. Time Magazine named him as 2007's 'Hero of the Environment', "No living person has done more to make the people of Planet Earth aware of the world around them." It will be a sad day when he's no longer with us, sharing such informative documentaries and commentaries about the world.

Inspirational Quote? *"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."* Often wrongly attributed to Mark Twain, the author might be H Jackson Brown.

Last book you read: 'Erebus: The Story of a Ship' by Michael Palin

Tell us something about yourself that we don't know: I run marathons. I ran my first one in Luton in 2003, found that I enjoyed running 26.2 miles and have carried on. The most recent one was the Dunstable Downs Hilly Billy 50km, the day before term started in September and the next one (number 57) is the Snowdonia Marathon in Wales during October half-term. When not running, I enjoy watching the Australian soap opera, Neighbours. No-one in my family agrees with me that watching this is a good thing or something to be celebrated!

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Year 12 & 13 Philosophy students recently went to Stowe School to hear a lecture given by Prof. Simon Blackburn, a Philosophy Lecturer at Cambridge University, titled 'Reason in a World of Conflict'. Simon Blackburn's lecture on the truth made me, and many of my peers, think what the truth really means, and how we react to our different forms of it. For example, what would be the difference between emotional truth, the 'real truth'?



As well as the emotional, and 'real truth' he had also discussed whether we would be honest, no matter the situation. He explored the theory that if an axe murderer had come to kill your children and had demanded to know where your children are, is it a question of revealing the location of your children, or lying to save them? This links with what I am learning in Philosophy and Ethics, as we come to explore the idea of truth and the universe that derives from Aquinas and Kant and their ideologies.

Zahra Hussain, 6DR

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

It was another successful Design and Technology trip to 100% Design this year for a group of Year 12 and 13 students. The exhibition which is part of the bigger 'London Design Festival' is held at one of London's iconic venues: London Olympia. This year it was celebrating 25 years and the 'trade show' is a rare glimpse of what goes on in the world of Design and was full of innovation and inspiration for our budding designers. The students all seemed to take away the importance and essence of the show which is to get a 'real world' experience from the show and learning that Design & Technology isn't limited to the classroom.

Mr J Poote
Teacher of Design & Technology

Here are a few responses from our students:

It was a really useful school trip, that allowed us to understand design technology in more depth and to have a better understanding of how it is used in the real world.

Rose Battrum, 6LE

It was such an interesting day out, exploring different companies with a wide range of products and getting to talk to product designers themselves. We learned about materials and processes that went into different products which will help us when designing our own.

Elizabeth Gayler 6AP





The exhibition was an eye opening experience. It was interesting listening to designers and observing their work. It was inspirational and expanded our knowledge of the 'design world'.

Lorenzo Dell'Aquila, 6AP

100% Design was an amazing opportunity for me to see what it takes to get a start up design company. It also provided me with some contacts of people and companies that would be willing to help with some of the features for my A level product and potential deals to make it the best I can.

Jordan Blackmore, 6LE

100% Design is an inspiring event filled with unique products every year that inspire us in the designs we produce at school, and is a great day out for all of the Design Technology A-level students.

Aidan Morris, 6LE

Going to 100% Design has provided me with some excellent ideas for future projects, not only in aesthetics but also in functionality. Seeing how things work and are produced up close and being able to ask the manufacturers in person about how it is all made has aided in a far better understanding of to how work with a client, finding suitable compromises to make a functional product.

Will List, 6LE



DEBATING CLUB

A new lunchtime club offering students the opportunity to hone their debating skills started this term. Students were keen to start with the great Brexit debate as their opening topic. This proved to be a lively debate which reflected the split in the original referendum. Students were knowledgeable and passionate about their side of the debate.

Like Parliament and the

nation, students held firm with their views on 'Remaining' and 'Leaving', with many persuasive lines of argument expressed. No doubt we will be revisiting this topic soon!

Students select topical issues each week and decide which side they wish to take on, speaking for or against the motion. Recent topics have included: 'All UK police officers should be armed' and 'England should follow Scotland in banning the smacking of children'.

In the future we will be entering local debating competitions, we also hope to be the place where any student is welcome to practice their skills in oracy; after all, many successful career pathways begin with this great skill.



Ms Dalton
Teacher of English

ECO WARRIORS



A group of Year 7 students; Emily, Chloe, Sanchia & Sinead, have formed a small task force designated to clearing up litter around Stewkley, the village they live in.

It all started with them being disgusted by the littering they saw at the village Rec. They agreed to work together to clear the rubbish, which in addition to being an eyesore, can pose a danger to wildlife. In their quest they have collected and filled bags with; plastic bottles, cans, packets, discarded toys and other general waste.

They are taking so much pride in the work they have done and hope to inspire others to take more care of the village that they love and respect.

The team recently attended the Stewkley Parish Council meeting to advise on the work

they have been doing where they captivated the attention of the councillors and spent over half an hour discussing what they have been doing, and answering lots of questions. They also featured in an article in the [Leighton Buzzard Observer](#). Well done for making a difference and making Stewkley a better environment to live in.

COMPUTING AND ICT

New ICT Equipment - Coming to lessons in 2019/20!

The ICT department have been really busy unboxing a whole host of new equipment over the past few weeks. This will allow us to offer two great new opportunities for students in Computing & ICT classes. The first lot of new toys we have are the Kitronik:Move Mini Mk2 robots. These little buggys are powered by the BBC Micro Bit devices that many students have already had the chance to use, but add a servo and light controller to them, allowing us to build fun devices that can be remote or autonomously controlled.



They were a big hit with Mr Clawson's form members and Sixth Form students, who got to experiment with the two different aspects of coding they support. As they are designed to help students to make the transition from block coding, like they would have experienced with Scratch, to text based coding like they might find in the world of work, we are excited to see what they can come up with over the next few months.

We have two class sets of these cool little gadgets, kindly paid for by the Friends of Cottesloe. A massive thanks must go to the committee and all of those that have supported their fundraising efforts, as we know these devices will really help in teaching computing concepts to our students.

The second bundle of goodies we have been able to roll out have been extremely well received by users in one of our computer suites. All of the screens have been replaced by 22" monitors. These not only look fantastic, but allow us to connect our Raspberry:Pi computers to the back of each terminal. The Pi is a small, fully functioning computer that allows students to experience a totally different type of operating system and programming environment to our standard Windows PCs. This will mean we can add new

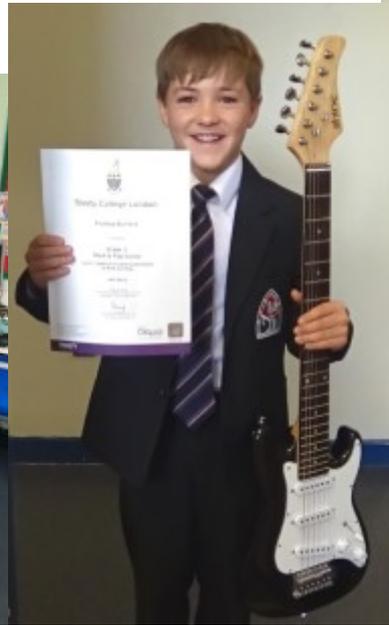


dimensions to the computing lessons, including the use of Pygame and Minecraft:Pi (meaning that learners can code Minecraft worlds rather than just play them).

We are really excited to see what these new gizmos allow the students to do. I am sure there will be some fantastic creations made with both.

**Mr Clawson, Mr Owen
and Mr Cropper
Computing & ICT Team**

PERFORMING ARTS



Music Exams

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their exam certificates:

- Josh Pollard *Passed the Initial Guitar exam*
- Thomas Burford *Grade 2 Guitar - with Merit*
- Caitlin Cooke *Grade 3 Guitar*
- Christian Choy *Grade 4 Guitar - with Merit*
- Charlie Millard *Grade 2 Piano*

The Woman in Black

Warming up for Halloween, GCSE Drama students went to see *The Woman in Black* at The Royal and Derngate theatre at the beginning of October. Students seemed to really enjoy the show, even though it was rather frightening in places!

- "It was really good acting and you could see the detail of how the actors were feeling through their expressions." **Sapphire Wrighton-Ward**
- "It was much better than the film." **Freya Ballard**
- "I liked the final twist at the end." **Jack Bambury**
- "I was petrified!" **Cerys Young**

Miss Mayhew
Head of Performing Arts



School of Rock

BTEC Performing Arts students had a fantastic time at School of Rock as part of their investigation into the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. There were two eventful train rides, dinner at Pizza Express, the amazing show itself and, of course, ice-cream at the interval!



"A thrilling, immersive musical experience that really leaves you with a smile on your face and a few songs stuck in your head." **Eve, Year 12**

"Loved every minute of it. The audience got involved and all the songs were catchy and fun." **Soph, Year 12**

"Once in a life time experience with a performance that had great excitement; I will never forget it."

Lauren, Year 12



Last Night of the Proms

On Saturday 14th September 2019, my family and I went to the climactic finale of the greatest classical music festival in the world; the Last Night of the Proms. It was an astonishing experience! The whole night was filled with fantastic classical works, starting with a world premiere of "*Woke*" by Daniel Kidane (which contained one of the loudest ending chords I've ever heard from a live orchestra), and a scintillating, spine-tingling performance by the BBC Singers (which my dad has been a part of for over 32 years), of a special arrangement of Laura Mvula's "*Sing to the Moon*". Then, the famed second-half started, and as the Prommers set loose an onslaught of ribbons, beach balls and squeaky flying balloons, we all sang our lungs out to "*Rule Britannia*", "*Land of Hope and Glory*", and "*Jerusalem*", then clapped along to the fantastic "*Fantasia on British Sea Songs*". Most enjoyable of all was the rich, velvety voice of Jamie Barton, whose powerful vocals made the Royal Albert Hall feel more alive than ever. Truly an outstanding night with a wonderful atmosphere, and it will be an experience I shall never forget!

Harry Murgatroyd, 10AOR



Beauty and The Beast

Rehearsals are underway, everyone is working really hard and the show is coming together well. Tickets are now available to purchase (via ParentPay) Adults £8, Concession £6 for the three nights; Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December 2019 at 7:30pm in the Main Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Miss Mayhew
Head of Performing Arts*

ART DEPARTMENT



On 24 September our Year 12 & 13 A Level Art students enjoyed a visit to Carey Lodge. As part of National Day of Arts in Care Homes, students worked with residents to produce art work for a vibrant and colourful display.

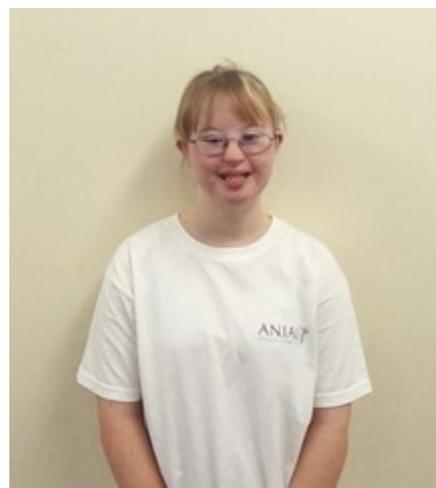
For more Arts news visit the [website](#).

ANJALI

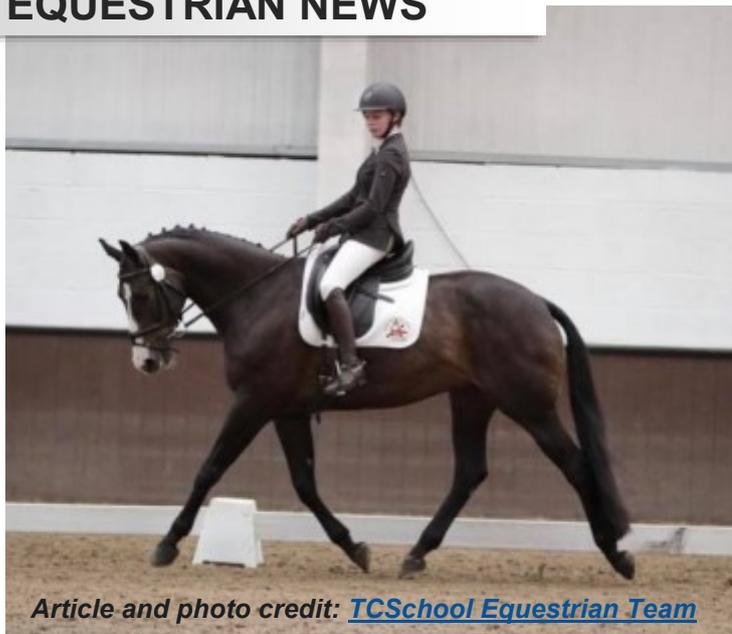
Anjali is a dance company that I belong to. Every Monday evening I travel from Aylesbury to Banbury after school. The class lasts for two hours. We start with a warm-up where we mainly do stretches, then we begin the dancing.

Anjali is a contemporary form of dance and involves moves, similar to ballet, with lots of stretches. I really like some of the music we dance to. Some of the music is in the charts. I enjoy going to Anjali because dancing makes me happy and keeps me fit.

Emily Tomlinson 11HN



EQUESTRIAN NEWS



Article and photo credit: [TCSchool Equestrian Team](#)

Three members of the team competed last month at Bury Farm in the NSEA Show Jumping and Dressage qualifiers. A huge well done to Charlotte Thorne who won her class in the Prelim dressage, scoring just over 74%, and qualifying for the National Champs in October. Amelia Fogden had a great clear round on her horse Ozzie, but was sadly out of the placings in a big class, however, she came 4th in her dressage class on her other horse Nigel, and, like Charlotte has also qualified for the National Champs. Grace Kearvell had a fast clear round in the 80cm on her pony Joey, but it wasn't quite fast enough to be placed. They did well to make it into the top ten out of a busy class of 50! Well done girls, you did The Cottesloe School proud!

BADMINTON FUNDRAISER



Photo credit: [Terry Lee](#)

Two of our students, Harvey Turnbull (11HN) and Liam Girgis (11PAG), took part in a 24-hour badminton tournament beginning on 5th October. Along with a number of other members of Affinity Badminton Club, the fundraiser was well supported and offered many activities for people to get involved, including a 24 hour games marathon, to raise funds for PACE and CUPS (Children with Cerebral Palsy and Community Unity Projects).

Harvey said "Liam and I spent 24 hours raising money for people with disabilities by playing Badminton continuously. We found it fun and spent lots of time with the local community, although it was very tiring! It's a very nice feeling knowing that we can help improve someone's life."

TAEKWONDO

When I am not teaching or looking after our students with additional learning needs and disabilities, outside of school I am passionate about martial arts. I have been practising ITF Taekwondo for over 10 years with a local family friendly club, and I gained my first black belt in 2014.



It is wonderful to see a growing number of Cottesloe students training in our Cheddington and Milton Keynes [clubs](#). In March last year, three Year 10 boys participated in the TAGB British Taekwondo Championship where Teddy Fogden won the Bronze medal for sparring in his category. Training in Martial Arts is not only an effective way to learn self-defence and a fun way to keep fit. It also develops positive mental health and emotional wellbeing by developing the skills of self-control, resilience, self-esteem and respect for others.



Amelie in Year 10, who has been training for a couple of

years, writes of her own Taekwondo experience:

“Ever since I started practising Taekwondo it has opened up a world of joy for me. As a young teenager, I feel it is important to allow yourself to be free in some way, and for me that is Taekwondo. Being able to free my body and mind with the art of self-defence has not only made me feel powerful but relieved grateful and ecstatic. I would most definitely recommend taekwondo to anyone who is interested. It is such a fulfilling experience that I wouldn't trade for the world.”



Ms A Hibbert
SENDCo and Specialist Assessor

COPPERS FOR CANCER



During October students have brought in coppers to donate to Macmillan cancer charity - hence the name 'Coppers 4 Cancer'.

We have already held a poster competition and the winning entries are on display in reception, along with the donation boxes, separated into one for each year group, so that at the end of the month we can weigh them and the year group with the heaviest box will receive a small prize!

Following the collection we are playing host to a 10th Anniversary Breakfast fundraiser in the school dining hall, on Saturday 9th November. We will hand over all coins collected, along with any donations from the 'Green Day' on

Friday 8th November. Please note, students are to wear normal uniform but may accessorise with a green item of clothing (i.e. scarf, hat, gloves, socks, hair-band etc.) Thank you for your support.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

The Summer 2019 World Scout Jamboree was a gathering of over 42,000 scouts from all over the world, of which Libby and I were lucky enough to be a part of the 4000 scouts representing the UK. Over all, the trip lasted three and a half weeks.

First, we flew out to New York and stayed for two days completing challenges all over the city; we then went over to the jamboree site in West Virginia where we stayed for a week and a half. Here we were given so many different opportunities. It was a real endurance test! We were able to go hiking in the West Virginian mountains (even at above 40 degrees); white water rafting in the West



Virginian rapids; zip-lining a mile long over the site; rock climbing; kayaking; shooting; arrow and crossbow shooting and many other challenging activities. We were also introduced to many people of different cultures from all over the world. We tried their food, learnt their culture and even got involved with sporting activities and games they brought over from their countries. We also exchanged contact details and now I am friends with many people from around the globe.

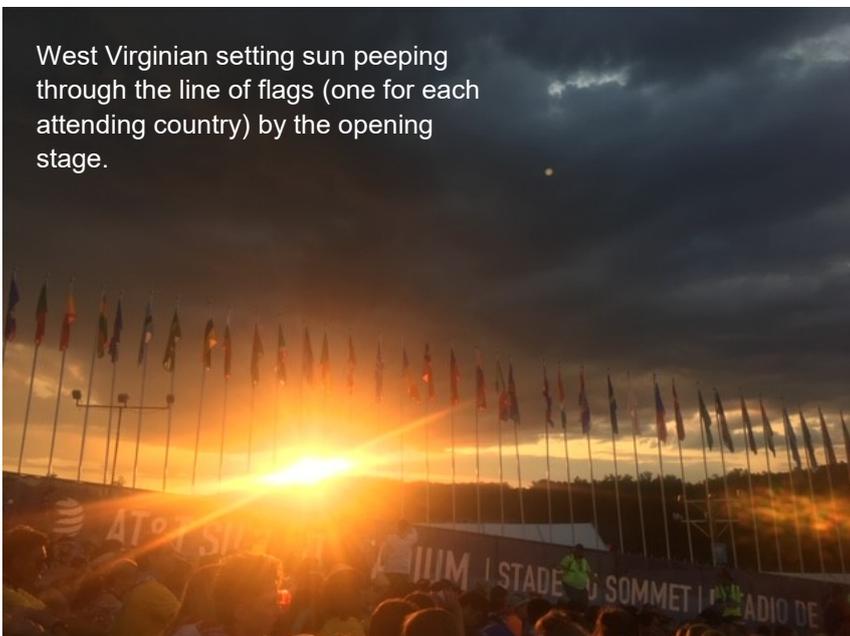


Unit 50 parading to the opening ceremony on the second day

After the Jamboree, we headed to Washington for 4 days where we visited key American buildings and places and just generally had a good time. After Washington, we stayed with a French-speaking scout group from Canada for a week where we helped develop their site and were involved in environmental building and improvements.



One of the roads leading to our campsite. Some walks to activities



West Virginian setting sun peeping through the line of flags (one for each attending country) by the opening stage.

In addition to all of this, we had fun doing the mud run and rope swinging into a freezing lake. We were introduced to, and joined in, the French-Canadian traditions throughout the week. Over all, we both had the experience of a lifetime and we changed and developed so much throughout the course of the trip! Libby and I both couldn't be more grateful for being given the opportunity to represent the UK on such an international adventure as the WSJ.

Scarlett Mercer, 11PAG

TEAM HUB

Over the summer a huge renovation project took place, converting the vehicle technology workshop into our new student support centre. Months of planning and designing led to the launch of TEAM Hub (Together Everybody Achieves More)



HUB
TOGETHER EVERYONE
ACHIEVES MORE

The LINC is no longer; no more sharing facilities with the youth club. Instead The Cottesloe School is now home to a stand alone building that houses two counselling rooms, two intervention rooms – one large for group activities and the other a small room for 1:1 or small group sessions, an office and a large work area with sofas, beanbags, computers, work tables and not forgetting a kettle for that all important cup of tea!

TEAM Hub is managed by Miss Phillips and supported by Mrs Brimmell (Student Wellbeing Officer) and Mrs West (Student Support officer), all are safeguard trained to DSL level and support students in a range of different ways, for a range of different needs.

Mrs Hankin
Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead





WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

On 2nd October we began a new support programme, in conjunction with Mind UK, that involved 19 students from Years 12 and 13.

Mind UK came to The Cottesloe School and delivered a full day of training to our student volunteers in order to initiate Mind UK's 'Peer to Peer' Mentor scheme within school. The Mind UK initiative, along with our newly refurbished student support centre, TEAM Hub, adds an extra layer of support to our students. Students now have the opportunity to speak to our Sixth Form 'Wellbeing Ambassadors' in addition to staff at school.

Mind UK introduced this programme as it has been proven that some students feel more comfortable discussing concerns and problems with someone nearer their own age. I will be the scheme Co-ordinator offering support and advice to the Ambassadors whenever they need, especially for referrals and Safeguarding issues.



I would like to personally thank all the newly trained Wellbeing Ambassadors. Their enthusiasm and knowledge shone through on the training day, Mind UK were very impressed by the calibre of our volunteers and their passion for Mental Health. I look forward to working with a fantastic group of students.

Mrs N Brimmell
Student Wellbeing Officer

ANTI BULLYING AMBASSADORS

In December 2018 two students from each year group applied to help those who may experience bullying at school. A training workshop took place, and the students who applied learnt how to deal with all kind of situations which could occur at schools. One major focus was use of social media. This was a crucial to us due to the fact almost all young teens are exposed to this. The students also discussed the types of bullying and slowly built an understanding of how to prevent anything getting out of hand.

As a team we decided to support the well-being of the students and figure out where, why and how bullying may happen.

As well as working in The Cottesloe School, the ABA Team have been requested to help in local primary schools, focusing on cyberbullying and introducing them to Year 7. Our goal was to make sure every student is comfortable and feels safe whilst learning. This year the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are making sure the wellbeing of students in our school remains a priority. We are trying to encourage students to talk about their struggles and what they go through so that we can support them and improve the situation. Preventing bullying is a huge mission, however, the two things we focus on is the wellbeing of young people and change.

Lottie Cable, 11HN



STAY SAFE

With clocks due to change in the next few weeks, students can be travelling to and from school in the dark, as well as socialising during the dark evenings. More crimes are committed against teenagers than any other age group.

Reported incidents are few and far between, but as a school we are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of young people and we wanted to make parents, carers and students aware of what to do in certain situations.

Below are a few tips for young people on how to stay safe in the dark, but these can also be applied to everyday life.

- Most students that live in Aylesbury catch the bus home from inside the coach park, but some cross the busy Aylesbury Road. The school uniform is dark in colour and thus doesn't stand out which means that you aren't as visible to drivers. Consider adding florescent stickers to your coat and or bag.
- Stay alert, and keep earphones in your pocket, so you can hear what's going on around you.
- Stick to busy, well-lit roads, and avoid short cuts through alleyways or across fields or wasteland.
- If you think someone is following you, you should cross the road or go to a place with lots of people around, like a bus stop or shop.
- When travelling by bus, try and use bus stops on busy roads.
- If someone tries to take something from you, never fight, instead give them what they are asking for and tell an adult as soon as possible.
- Keep mobile phones and other valuables out of sight.
- Cross roads at designated crossing points to allow you to be more visible to drivers.
- It is always better to go out with a group of trusted friends than it is to walk alone. Whenever possible have at least one other person to walk with.
- Your posture can make all the difference in how you are perceived by a potential attacker. If you are looking down, seem distracted or look afraid you are more likely to become a target. Keep your head up, be aware of what is going on around you and keep your gaze fixed at nose level.
- For your own safety you must always tell your parents or carers where you are going to be, the route you plan to take in getting there, and when you expect to be home. If there is any deviation from the plan you must tell them ASAP. Make sure they have a way they can contact you.

There are always reports of children across the country being involved in attempted abductions. If a car approaches you, keep walking, take yourself to a busy area. If somebody tries to push you into a car or van, make as much noise as you can to draw attention to yourself.

Report any incidents to an adult or the Police ASAP

If you have any concerns about the safety of your child, please contact a member of the safeguarding team at the school.

[Safeguarding Team](#)

Mrs Hankin
Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead





Thames Valley Police Schools Newsletter

Welcome to our third TVP Schools Newsletter. Hopefully our newsletters are doing the rounds and more parents/carers are reading the useful information that we are carefully selecting. If anyone for any reason did not receive our previous newsletters, then please email: Aylesburysaferschools@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk and we will be happy to forward you a copy.

Like in our previous Newsletters we would like to remind parents/carers that you should report incidents directly to the school who take primacy in investigating. If any incident is reported to the police we record it, notify the school, liaise with the investigating teacher, and deal with the incident under SSP guidance. This approach is restorative and our priority is to educate and safeguard, not criminalise. In this issue we want to raise awareness of online grooming, and sexting;

Online Grooming

Online grooming is the term used to describe people befriending children online in order to take advantage of them for their own gain. This is often associated and believed to be for a sexual purpose. It is important that you know that young people are also groomed online for other reasons as criminals now look to exploit young people in a life of crime.

Where does this happen?

People who want to groom children will use any sites and services which are popular with young people. They can become very active in online games or communities popular with children. On social media they might send out multiple 'friend requests' at random in the hope that young people will accept them. They also try to identify young people who might be particularly vulnerable by looking at the things they post.

In games and chatrooms they will try to start conversations with young people and then ask them to chat privately, perhaps on social media or on a mobile chat app.

You should assume that if a site or app is popular with young people then people with a sexual interest in children will try to use it to communicate with them. This doesn't mean you should panic or not let your children use them, simply that they should be aware that there can be risks on any platform they are using.

What should you tell your child?

It's important to ensure that your children are aware of the risks posed by people with a sexual interest in children online. Your children should know that they should be wary of people they talk to online, not share too much personal information and to be aware of how they appear in their online profiles. It's also important that your child knows that they can talk to you if anything is bothering them and that you will be supportive. Remember both boys and girls can be groomed.

Sexting

Sexting is an amalgamation of the words sex and texting.

The act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, either via text, mobile phone, email or internet messaging is what we refer to as sexting.

So this includes; naked pictures, underwear shots, other sexual texts, images or video

Sexting and the Law

In the UK the age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16. However, it is an offence to make, distribute, possess or show any indecent images of anyone aged under 18, even if the content was created with the consent of that young person.



Sexting is defined as taking a sexually explicit or partially nude image of yourself and sending it on to someone else, usually a boyfriend or girlfriend but sometimes potentially done as a dare. For anyone under the age of 18 the act of sexting is illegal under the Protection of Children Act 1978. This states that if a young person under the age of 18 takes an image of this nature of themselves then the law has been broken as they have created an indecent image of a child, even though the image is of themselves. By sending this content on to another person, they have distributed an indecent image of a child. By receiving content of this kind and having it on your device then someone would be in possession of an indecent image of a child.

What is Indecent?

There's no legal definition of 'indecent' but basically if it's naked, a topless girl, contains genitals or sex acts, including masturbation, then it will be indecent.

- Tell your child what can happen when things go wrong. Don't accuse your child of "sexting", but do explain the dangers.
- You may find it easiest to use real-life examples, such as television programmes or news stories, to help you explain the risks. Ask them if they would want something private shown to the world. Explain that photos are easy to forward and can be copied.
- Talk about whether your child thinks that the person who sends a request is likely to be asking other people to do the same.

Useful links:

www.barnardos.org.uk/rusafebucks

support for vulnerable young people at risk of exploitation.

www.thinkUknow.co.uk

CEOPs (Child Exploitation & Online Protection) education programme aiming to educate and protect children and young people from sexual abuse and exploitation.





Friends of
Cottesloe School

YEAR 7

*Spooky Spectacular
Fancy Dress*

DISCO

FRIDAY 8TH
NOVEMBER

6.30pm-8.30pm

Games Room / DJ / Tuck Shop

Tickets £4

*Spooky-themed fancy dress is optional,
but if you want to come in costume you have
a chance of winning a prize!*

Purchase tickets via ParentPay, at School Reception or on the door