

21 July 2022

## Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this final newsletter of 2021-2022 finds you well. Yesterday I enjoyed four wonderful Acts of Worship where the focus was on celebrating the many successes of the term and the year. There were many winners so your child may have shared that news with you – if they were not a winner this time round, there is plenty of time to get on the list for December 2022!

As we are now on holiday, and the weather is very warm, can I please remind you of the letter I sent on 8 July about water safety and the dangers of swimming in open water ([link](#)). Tragically, news reports are all too frequent about deaths of young people engaging in this activity ([most recently](#)). Please re-iterate this message to your children to help keep them safe over the summer.

On 7 October 2021, at a special event at Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen placed her message to the Commonwealth into the Commonwealth Games Baton, signifying the start of the 294-day Relay to the 72 nations and territories of the Commonwealth. As it travels, the Baton is inspiring people to come together and host moments of celebration ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

A number of our students attended an event at The Lea Valley White Water Centre on 8 July where they got a chance to take part in events and witness the flame being carried through the park. Most of our students won't remember this Olympic Games in any detail (which makes me feel very old since it seems like yesterday!) but this was a reminder of that fantastic event and something to look forward to this summer, with the games in Birmingham.



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Continuing the sport theme, one of our 6<sup>th</sup> formers, Rebekah Green, competes outside school in Kayaking events. This summer she won the world championship silver medal ([link](#)). This is an amazing achievement, and we are all very proud of her, but made especially impressive as she did this whilst studying for her A levels. Congratulations, Rebekah!

The final section on Sports is about our students visiting primary schools and helping out with their sports days. This is very useful to the primary schools, but is a fantastic opportunity for our own students to develop leadership and teaching skills, working with younger children. We had a lot of positive comments from the schools, the most recent being from Fairfields: "The students were fabulous. So polite and helpful. A credit to you and your school. We will be in touch next year for help with our Sports Fortnight next June/July." Well done to our students who represented the school so well.

### **Young Enterprise 2022**



Our Young Enterprise team attended the North and East Hertfordshire Showcase Final as one of the 13 finalists where they set up a functional and informative trade stand showing their products. The team named 'Gifti' provided sustainable gifts which were created from mainly recycled materials such as glass jars, shredded waste paper, left over ribbon and odd cut offs of material along with donated small teddy bears. Their enterprise logo with green circular arrows and slogan of 'Reuse, ReGifti' perfectly showed their standpoint, supporting sustainability and the protection of the environment.

At the event the team represented themselves and the school impeccably where they discussed their enterprise and journey with other teams, their teachers and Young Enterprise officials. The team took part in an interview with the judges where they were able to answer every question posed to them with full confidence. The final challenge required each team to present to a packed hall of the other teams, teachers, advisors, YE staff and other supporters. After a practice presentation, the team faced the room and stepped up when it was their turn and produced what can only be described as an outstanding delivery.

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All of the required enterprise details were covered in an inspiring way where they held up their products showing the audience whilst explaining their journey. Their fantastic personalities shone through and the whole room was on board with their infectious style and their cheekiness when they placed a product on the judges table when they walked off stage, resulting in very loud clapping and cheering at the end.

The enterprise itself was a success and the team achieved a healthy profit and they donated £51.78 to Paradise Wildlife Park to help support their ongoing conservation and preservation of wildlife.

Congratulations Kelan, O'Dane, Ozy, Owen, Makari and Callum – we are all incredibly proud of your achievements!



### Summer Concert Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July

What a spectacular evening of music and drama!

The evening got off to a loud start with our Year 7 Samba group, performing a piece learned in class this term, all of Year 7 have been studying 'Carnival' and this was an excellent showcase of their work.



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The Phoenix Singers Choir and a number of solo singers had the opportunity to perform with a band of professional musicians. This is something we try to do as often as possible to give our performers the experience of working with jobbing musicians. This also links well to our KS4 course where students learn about working in the 'Music Industry'.



During the concert we had performances from several instrumentalists on piano & guitar, the best way for students to develop techniques for overcoming nerves and find their own performance style is by performing to live audiences as often as possible.



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There were two very dramatic drama performances, the first by year 7, a Greek theatre piece from 'Medea', which they have been studying this term in class, they second from 'Jekyll & Hyde'.



Thank you to everyone who spent the evening with us, it's amazing to be back to live performances. Keep an eye on the school website for all the events happening next academic year – it was a fantastic night and, because of the pandemic, the first one I have witnessed as Head Teacher and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening!

### Science

Learning continued up to the last, including in science. In the last few weeks, Year 12 Chemistry students were developing their skills in organic synthesis, separation and purification techniques. The picture shows students using a separation funnel to obtain an organic liquid from a mixture with an aqueous liquid. The organic liquid would be further purified using distillation...



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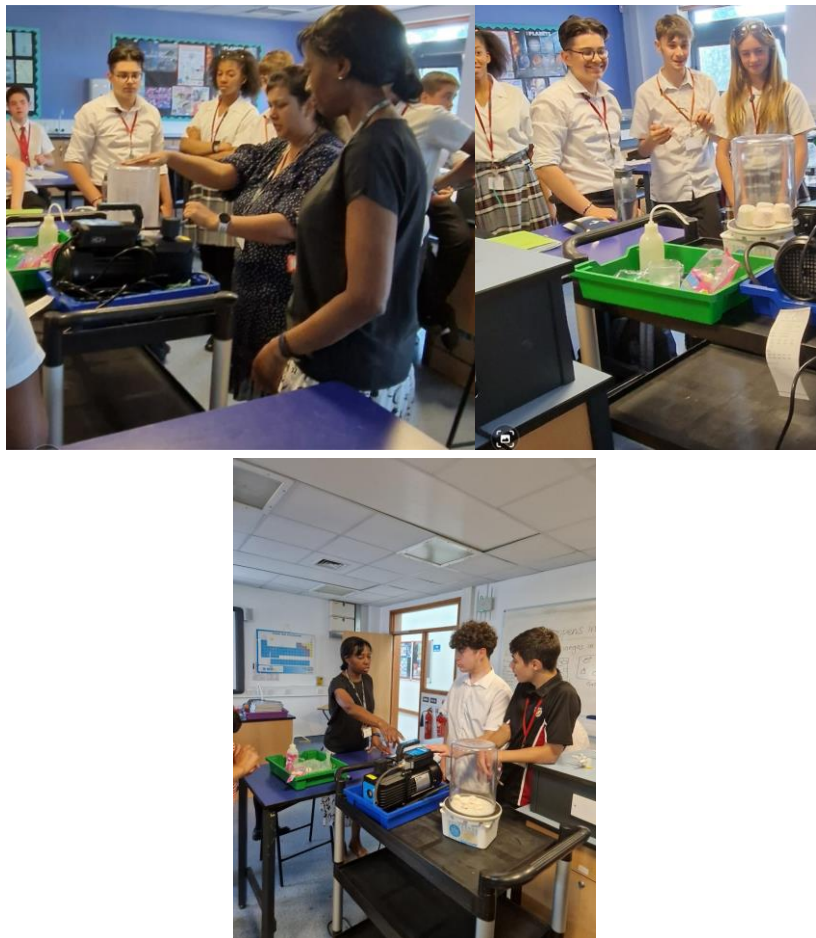
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Year 10 students investigated the effect of force on acceleration (a required practical for the GCSE Science Curriculum)...



Year 9 students watching the effect a vacuum has on marshmallows and water to understand how different materials behave in different conditions...



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## Last week of term

It was a huge disappointment to postpone the trips and sports day for the Monday and Tuesday this week, but given the heat, it was the right thing to do. Trips are being rescheduled and are largely dependent on coach availability – we will let you know when we have secured new dates for these, but all students who were booked on the July trips will be going on the re-arranged ones.

We were able to enjoy the Jubilee Day celebrations and lots of fun was had in the classroom doing art work that celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as well as outdoors events such as a picnic with traditional games, go-kart design and racing, human-sized 'table' football, inflatable assault courses and bungee runs... a fun day was had by all and the students said they loved it.



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I get emails from members of the public praising our students from time to time, and this one, the most recent, made delightful reading – the two students mentioned received community awards in yesterday's Act of Worship:

*I hope this finds you well.*

*I just wanted to write briefly to let you know that your students, 'A' and 'B' are a credit to the school. I met them today on the train from Cheshunt, whilst I was with my 7-month-old daughter. Both 'A' and 'B' were incredibly polite, friendly and courteous towards us, and helped ensure that my little daughter very much enjoyed the train ride! 'A' also helped me with my bag when I was wrangling my daughter and the pram to disembark the train.*

*I'm a youth worker in Hackney working with many young people around 'A' and 'B's age, so I'm really aware of the immense difficulty their age group have experienced in the past couple of years - current Year 8s obviously had an incredibly tricky transition into Secondary education. So it's especially impressive to see them carry themselves with real assurance, but also for them to be so caring and kind towards others.*

*All the best for the final straight before summer, and have a good one when it arrives!*

It just remains for me to wish you and your families the very best for the summer holiday, whatever you are doing, and we look forward to seeing your children in September and, hopefully, many of you at one or more of the school events throughout the year.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms  
Head Teacher

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