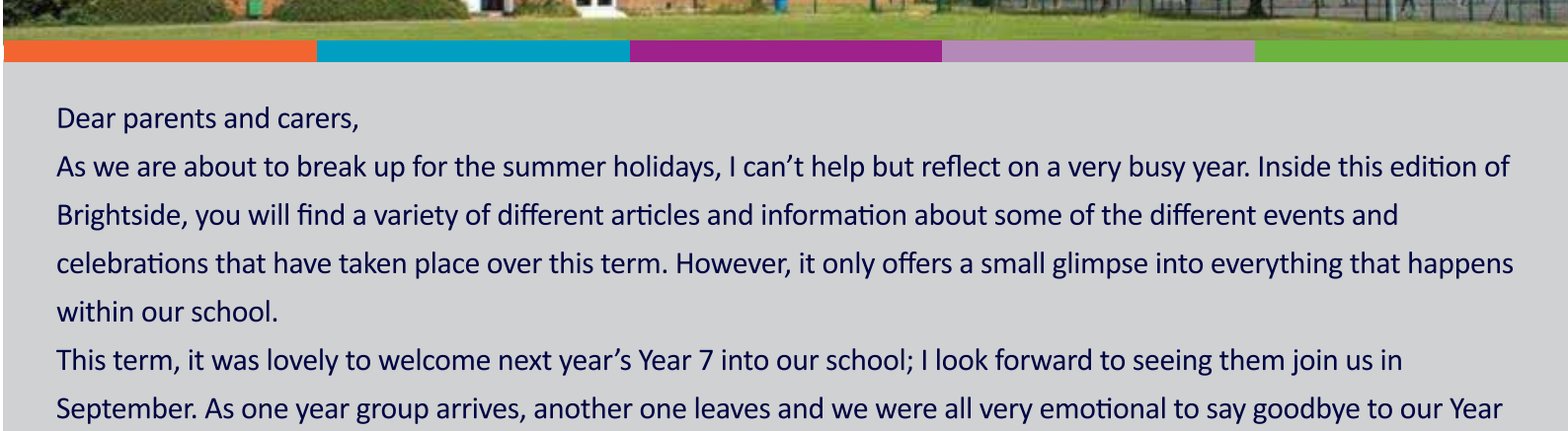


Brightside

JULY 2025



Dear parents and carers,

As we are about to break up for the summer holidays, I can't help but reflect on a very busy year. Inside this edition of Brightside, you will find a variety of different articles and information about some of the different events and celebrations that have taken place over this term. However, it only offers a small glimpse into everything that happens within our school.

This term, it was lovely to welcome next year's Year 7 into our school; I look forward to seeing them join us in September. As one year group arrives, another one leaves and we were all very emotional to say goodbye to our Year 11s on their Leavers' Day and Prom. You can see from the pictures that this was another great event. Also, it was lovely to see so many of you at our ACE event last week. What an incredible way to finish the year by celebrating some of the individual students' successes and watching some fantastic performances.

This year, we chose to join Acorn Education Trust and as such, we have been welcomed into their family. By amalgamating with this Multi Academy Trust, we have been able to increase the number of opportunities our school community can access and have strengthened our curriculum areas. We have already introduced a variety of new initiatives into our school as we align with the Trust and there are more exciting ventures ahead for next year. I would like to thank them for their support and welcoming us into the team.

So, as we end the year, I would like to say goodbye to several of our staff. As Mrs Slater returns from maternity, we say farewell to Mr Jones who has done an incredible job as her cover; he will be taking on a position in Clarendon under our Acorn partners. I would also like to thank Mr Davies for all of his hard work and dedication with us over the past few years; I wish him the very best in his relocation up North. And finally, I would like to wish Miss Baldwin the very best with her new venture working for the Local Authority. I am also very pleased to say that we are all looking forward to welcoming back Miss Bawcutt in September and I would like to personally thank our school community for their messages of support during this difficult time; she has been greatly missed. So, have a great summer break. Stay safe, have fun and see you in September.

Neil Pritchard

HEAD TEACHER

ACE EVENING

Despite the heat in the run up to Thursday's annual **Award Celebration Evening**, this was a lovely event where we saw students celebrating with their families and teachers. It is always such a lovely way to round off the year with such a positive celebration. Our school hall gets completely transformed for the evening, and a whole host of awards were presented across the subjects, along with a few special prizes. Students who compete for sports teams outside of school were also presented with their sports colours. The audience were entertained throughout the evening with many great performances from both students and staff. A massive thank you to everyone involved to make it a very special evening our favourite event of the school calendar.

We had some lovely feedback from a parent: "I just wanted to say a massive thanks to you and the staff for all the support they have given to my son and the lads from The Vale band. Last night was a very proud moment for myself, and my wife watching the band play live on stage. We really are so grateful, especially to Mrs Du Toit for showing such pride in my son, and to Mr Carter for supporting the lads and getting up on stage with them, he showed a lot of courage and performed brilliantly. My son got home last night and said, that was the best moment of his life. I have never seen him so happy and that is all down to you and the staff. I feel so proud that my children go to Pewsey Vale school. Thank you so much."



YEAR 6 TRANSITION

On the 2nd July we held our Transition Day, where we welcomed our new Year 7 students who will be starting with us in September. They met some of their new teachers and other tutees and joined in some ice-breaking games and activities. They also began to orientate themselves with the school campus. It was lovely to see them all enjoy themselves on their first visit to their new school. This was followed by our Transition Evening, where parents of the new Year 7s were invited into the school to meet with staff and other new parents and try on the new uniform. It was lovely to see the buzz of excitement from all the families as their children embark on this next big step on their education journey with us. We look forward to greeting them all on their first day with us on Wednesday 3rd September, when they will have the school to themselves for their first day.

YEAR 5 TASTER DAY

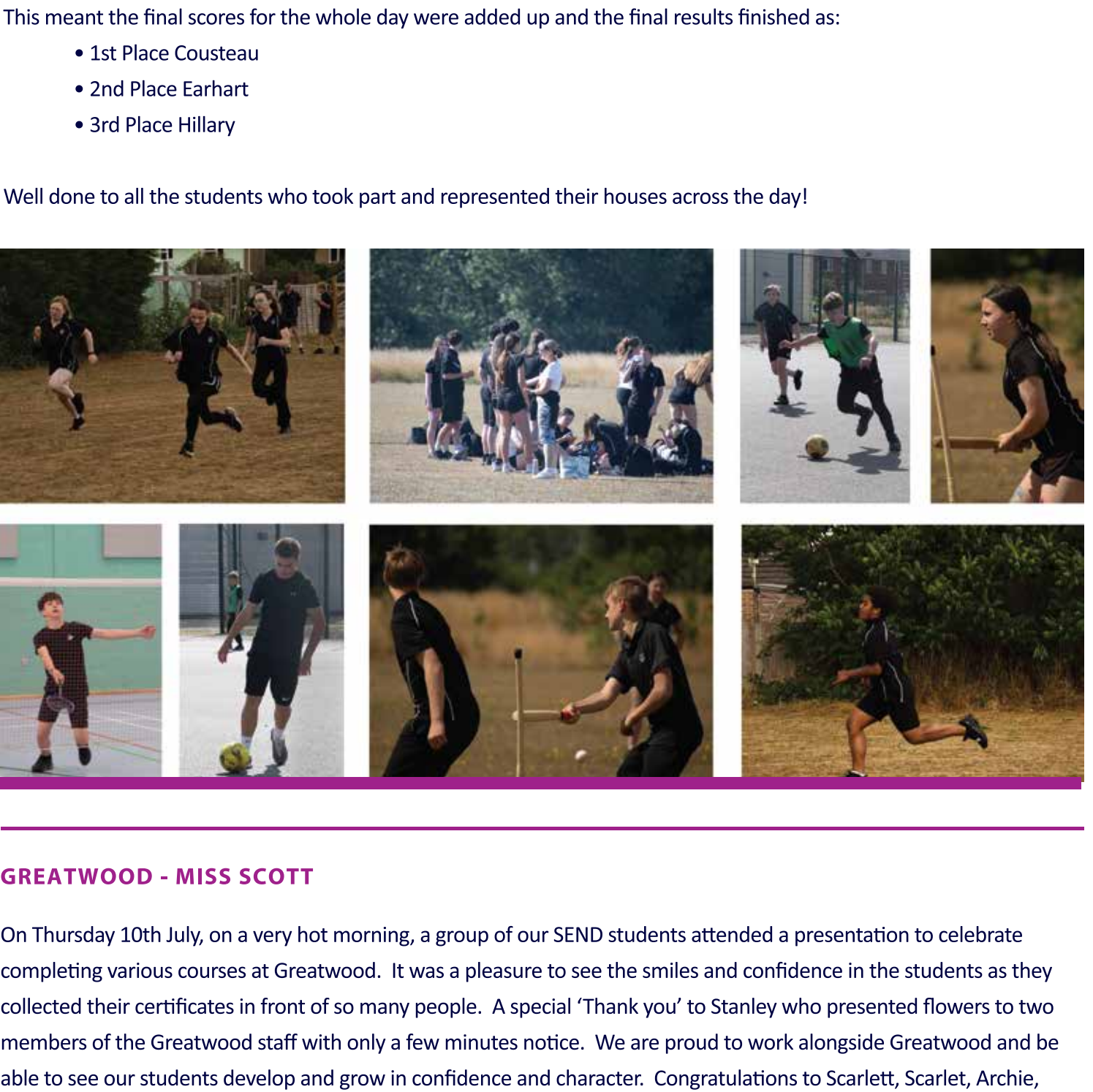
On the 4th July we held a taster day for current Year 5 students, inviting them to come and join us for a fun and educational day. During the day they took part in a range of activities and were provided with a picnic lunch. We had some lovely feedback from a parent after the event: "I wanted to pass on my thanks for the year 5 taster day that my daughter attended last week. She had a lovely day and thoroughly enjoyed all the activities. I hadn't fully appreciated at the time how inclusive you had made her feel. She has coeliac disease and must follow a strict gluten free diet which I flagged with your reception team ahead of her visit. On the day not only did she receive an appropriate gluten free lunch (pizza, sandwich and sausage roll plus more!) but in the cooking lesson, she was provided with gluten free ingredients and had her own work station - all of this was superb. Thanks very much for being inclusive to those with medical/dietary needs! Big thanks to reception for passing the gluten free message on, big thanks to the catering team for providing alternatives to those that need it and thanks to the food tech teacher for providing alternative ingredients and knowing that she'd need her own station. I'm very grateful for the thoughtfulness and all the effort that this took."

YEAR 11 PROM

On Thursday 26th June our Year 11s celebrated their Prom at the stunning Chalk Barn near Rushall. The students all looked amazing for the traditional "red carpet arrival" at school, with many villagers coming out to see the variety of transport arrive, including an Ice-cream van, a tractor, sports cars, vintage cars and even a lawnmower and trailer! The students could have their photo taken on the red carpet beside a beautiful balloon display created by **Around the World** before heading up to the **Chalk Barn** for the evening's festivities.



This venue really is stunning, with panoramic views over the Pewsey Vale. Students were presented with a lovely mocktail on arrival, they were also offered a free ice-cream courtesy of a very generous parent, before dancing the evening away (thanks to our fantastic **DJ Harry**), and enjoying making memories in the photo booth run by **Misters Discos**. What a great way to celebrate. Huge thanks must go to **Pewsey Vale coaches** for the incredibly generous support and sponsorship and **Around the World** for donating their time and effort to create the beautiful balloon display at both school and Chalk. Many thanks must also go to **Miss Hall** for cooking all the food to take up to the event and **Miss Simons** for photographing the event. (Photos are available to download to year 11 students, if you have not been sent the link please contact the school office).



SPORTS DAY 2024 - PE DEPARTMENT

Our eagerly anticipated sports day finally arrived after the initial postponement due to the heat wave last week. A wide range of activities took place, including Football, Rounders, Badminton, Athletics and Chess to ensure that all students had the opportunity to represent their house.

On the field Rounders and Athletics were well represented with some outstanding individual efforts. The Athletics saw students push and challenge themselves across a pentathlon of Shot Putt, Javelin, Standing Long Jump, 100m and 800m with eventual winners being Cousteau, closely followed by Earhart and then Hillary. Across the field, students across all year groups were giving their all in a well fought rounders tournament. The standard of play was excellent with eventual winners being Hillary followed by Earhart and then Cousteau. On the courts, Football was taking place where students were playing small sided inter tutor group matches in a tournament format. Competition was fierce and the goals were flowing with eventual winners Earhart just taking overall victory from Hillary in second and Cousteau in third. The Library posed a much quieter but just as focused setting for the chess competition. A well-earned overall win for Hillary from Earhart and Cousteau! The final morning activity took place in the hall where Badminton was taking centre stage. In a slightly shortened format, Hillary took the overall win from Cousteau and then Earhart.

After the morning activities and with the scores between the 3 houses as tight as they had ever been, the afternoon athletics would decide the overall winners of the day. With the whole school enjoying the weather and watching the sprint races, students took to the track with winners in 200m, 100m and 4x100. Some outstanding individual performances from all students ensured that the scores remained close until the very end. Eventually Cousteau emerged as the overall Athletics winners with Earhart in close pursuit and Hillary in 3rd.

This meant the final scores for the whole day were added up and the final results finished as:

- 1st Place Cousteau
- 2nd Place Earhart
- 3rd Place Hillary

Well done to all the students who took part and represented their houses across the day!



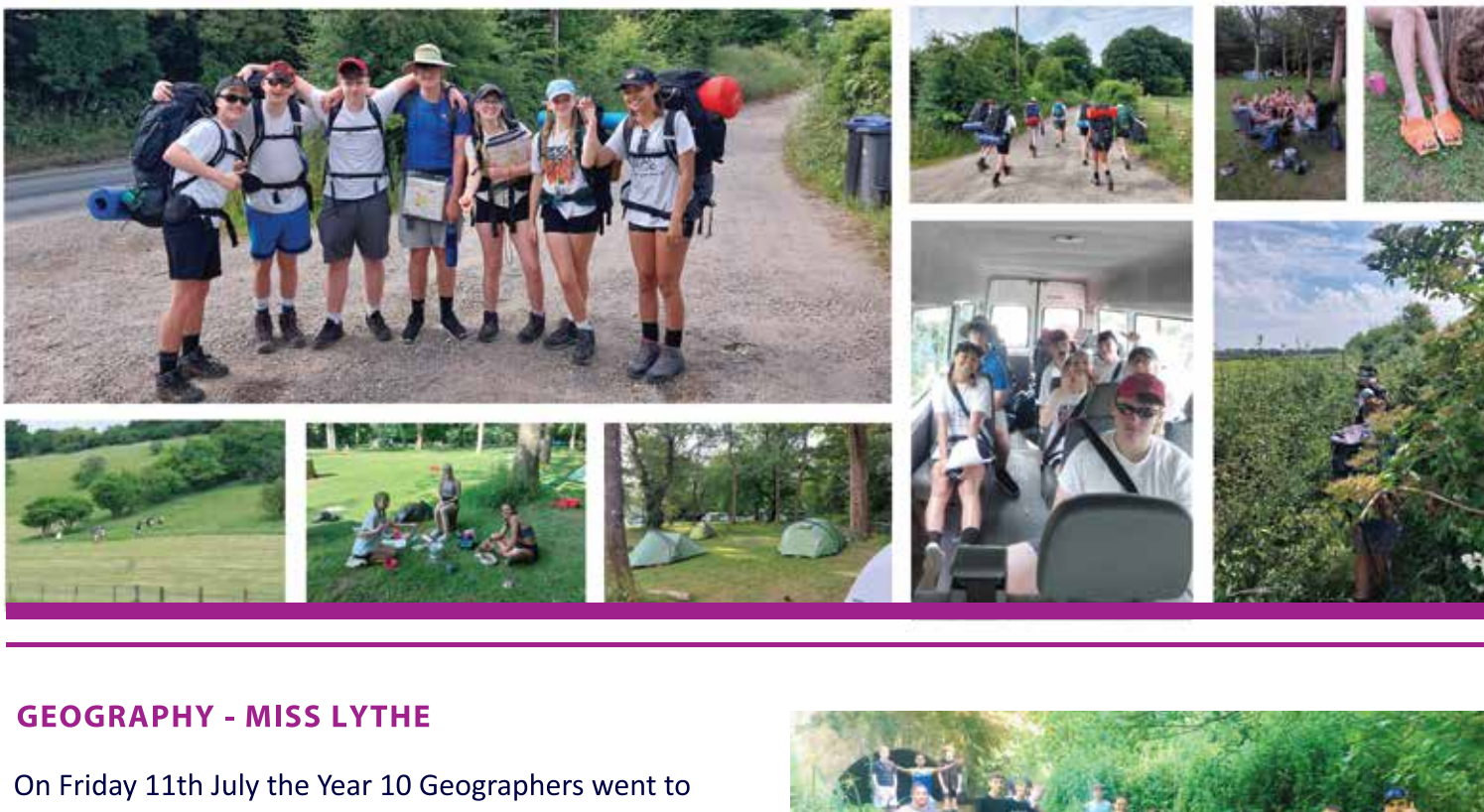
GREATWOOD - MISS SCOTT

On Thursday 10th July, on a very hot morning, a group of our SEND students attended a presentation to celebrate completing various courses at Greatwood. It was a pleasure to see the smiles and confidence in the students as they collected their certificates in front of so many people. A special 'Thank you' to Stanley who presented flowers to two members of the Greatwood staff with only a few minutes notice. We are proud to work alongside Greatwood and be able to see our students develop and grow in confidence and character. Congratulations to Scarlett, Scarlet, Archie, Kian, Jake, Mel, Verity, Stanley, Olivia and Alex on completing your courses. We are so proud of all of you.



LONGLEAT - MRS HARRIS

A number of SEN students were fortunate enough to be chosen for a lovely day out at Longleat on Wednesday 11th June. The entire day was generously sponsored by Marlborough and District Rotary. The students were taken on a trip around the safari park (minus the monkeys for obvious reasons!) where they saw lions, tigers, cheetahs, deer, giraffes to name but a few. This was then followed by lunch and a lovely afternoon getting lost in the maze (not mentioning any names), going on a boat trip, train ride and so much more. The weather couldn't have been better, warm and sunny. Many thanks to Marlborough and District Rotary for sponsoring the entire day out, to Ms Studencka and Miss Parker for all of your help during the day and a final thank you to the students who were a joy to spend the day with.



FIRST AID COURSE- MISS DEAN

On Wednesday 16th July our Year 7 students participated in the Wiltshire Air Ambulance's (WAA) Emergency Awareness Training programme. This programme aims to teach children a wide range of lifesaving skills such as making a 999 call, managing an unconscious patient, how to perform CPR, assisting someone who's choking, and burn treatment. The programme cost £2.50 per person and was highly rated by our students, many of whom have already requested to participate again next year. Huge thanks to members of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance for presenting this course, and we look forward to running it again next year.



MULTI-SKILLS FESTIVAL - MR CLAPTON

On Wednesday 9th July our School Games coordinator, alongside the Behaviour Team, organised a Rewards Sports Event. This was a fun morning to Congratulate KS3 students who have received Zero negative points throughout the year. Students took part in 4 events - Archery Tag, Trampoline, Forest School and Team Challenges. The event had a great time and were all buzzing with excitement by lunch-time. Well done to all of those who qualified for the students.



SPARK - MISS DEAN

On Friday 11th July a group of our Year 9 and 10 students completed their SPARK award by collaborating with Eudleed in delivering a personal development day for Year 8 students. SPARK is designed to ignite the desire and motivation for young people to dream big and fulfil their potential in school and life. This presentation session marked the final stage of their award and allowed the students to put their learning into practice while helping to inspire others. This course was an incredible opportunity for students to engage in personal development and expand their potential, both in school and beyond. The students will receive their formal certification from ASDAN at an event in the new academic year.



RAMSBURY ESTATE YEAR 10 - MISS DEAN

We were very lucky to be able to visit the Ramsbury Estate with year 10 pupils. During the course of the day the students had the opportunity to hear about the diverse range of careers and roles available from a local employer. In the afternoon they explored other areas of the Estate, including the woodland, and took part in team building challenges. They finished the day by developing proposals for new usage of an area of the Estate that is under used. The staff team at the Estate were brilliant and we thank them for their support in providing valuable such a valuable experience of a work place.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD - MRS YOUNGS

On Friday 20th June a group of our Year 11 students undertook their Bronze DofE expedition. This involved a 25km hike over 2 days with a heavy pack and camping overnight in the Savernake forest. The group did fantastically well and were a great fun throughout the expedition. Caitlin, Eleanor, Nyasha, Josh, James, Harry and Jacob worked together really well as a team, laughing, keeping the other members of the group engaged. Their team goal was to keep an egg intact for the duration of the expedition and they each took turns to look after the team egg, which survived the entire expedition, therefore meeting their target. They seemed to enjoy the expedition, despite the high temperatures, which made the expedition a lot harder, and hopefully they realise that they are considerably stronger and more capable than they thought. Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to one member of the team on the Friday night due to illness, but he did really well did complete as much as he did. The team showed great progression during their expedition, especially with their map and compass skills and cooked some great expedition food and even hot drinks and morning and evening. James was definitely the 'feeder' of the group, making sure everyone had enough to eat and even supplying marshmallows for the evening. They showed great resilience on day one when the group got 'turned around' in West Woods, and eventually realised where they had gone wrong and were able to get back on track and meet us at the lunch sport for a much-needed water break. There was a great moment on day two when they realised they were 30 minutes ahead of schedule and despite being very tired from the heat and having been attacked by flies, managed to use considerable team building skills to encourage the full team to dig deep to complete the full route going up and over Martinsell Hill, which shows huge determination from all the group. Apart from the flies and the hot weather and claiming to have maps that were 'just wrong' 😊, they showed a consistently positive approach to the whole weekend and did an excellent job. There were many occasions where they met members of the public and wished them "Merry Solstice" They had some lovely feedback from a member of the public who wrote to say, "I met some of your students doing their Bronze DofE camping at Postern Hill. They were polite and extremely engaging despite having had a hot day." Well done for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school. Best of luck with the rest of your Bronze Award and I would strongly recommend you all progress to Silver Level.



GEOGRAPHY - MISS LYTHE

On Friday 11th July the Year 10 Geographers went to Scottell Reserve to measure the river. The sun was shining and everyone was in good spirits as we walked down to the beautiful wooded site. The students were keen to get into the water and they collected their data really well. One student got rather stuck in the mud and several others got wetter than expected but everyone was there to help each other and the cohesion of the group made me feel very proud. We soon dried off and following a visit to the bakery made our way back to school. We completed our investigation over the rest of the day in the classroom. It was a very successful day with a fantastic Year 10 class - well done everyone. Have a great summer.



PE - MRS SHAW

12th June 2025 - Students from year 7 and year 8 participated in a rounders festival against numerous local schools, at Wellington Academy. The girls all played so well, despite the torrential rainfall that made scoring rounders really challenging. Our team comprised of 12 girls in year 7 and 8. We played every team once and each team had 10 minutes to bat. All the games were close fought and all the girls scored. A fantastic 2nd place finish. Go Pewsey!

17th June year 9 rounders festival - Students from year nine participated in a year 9 and year 10 rounders festival at Wellington Academy. It was a lovely sunny day and all the girls really enjoyed their day out. They faced tough competition against a mixed age or year 10 teams, however they fought hard and didn't give up to finish a very respectful 4th place. The girls also developed a greater understanding of the application of more complex rules for rounders. A great experience for them all round.

Results
Wellington - 1st
Pewsey - 2nd
St John's and Stonehenge 1 - same scores but St John's gained 3rd based on rounders fore.
Stonehenge 2 - 5th.

TRIATHLON - MRS BLACKSTOCK

On Sunday June 29th a number of our students who have been participating in the Triathlon club in school took part in the South West Tigers Triathlon at Marlborough College. This was a friendly introduction to triathlon and many of the students enjoyed the experience. Well done to all students who took part. The South West Tigers started in September 2017. The aim of the club is to support young people (7 to 14 years) in the North East Wiltshire region - Marlborough, Calne, Devizes, Pewsey and surrounding areas. The aim of the Junior Triathlon programme is to promote the sport, keep our youngsters active and have fun and develop them in a non-threatening and supportive way. No previous experience is necessary, and all children are welcome. For more information visit their website www.tigertri.co.uk

LEAVERS DAY

On Monday 16th June our Year 11 students had their official Leavers Day, where they celebrated with a BBQ on the field and had the opportunity to get their shirts signed and collect their Leavers hoodies and Prom tickets. They celebrate this day by holding a football match against the Year 10 students. This year the Year 11's won 2-0, with the winning goals scored by Josh S and Connor R. We would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on completing this milestone in their learning journey and wish them all the best with their results in August.

SEND DEPT. - MR ROBINSON MISS SCOTT

On Thursday 10th July the SEND department held their final parent forum for this academic year. We had a fantastic evening playing a great game of rounders finished off with hotdogs and burgers. It was a very warm evening, but it was brilliant to see our families have fun. Thank you to Mrs Shaw for organising the rounders match and thank you to all our parents who have supported these events throughout the year. We aim to hold three parent forums per academic year so please keep your eyes peeled for next year's dates.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES - MISS SLATER

It has been a busy term within the Creative areas. Within Art KS3 students have explored using a range of mixed media to create houses, shoes and large giant dioramas. The textiles students have completed a range of soft food packet sculptures, as well as Japanese Shibori dyed Tote Bags. Our GCSE students' work was moderated in May, we wish them the best of luck for their future studies. A large number of the cohort will be pursuing Creative pathways beyond school. We have recently been in touch with some of our recent alumni, including Seraphina who attained a place at Marlborough College to study A-Levels. I was fortunate enough to see her A-Level art on display at the college, and am pleased to say she will be studying an Art Foundation course at UCA, London next year. Another recent alumni-Luke, completed his Photography course at Swindon New College, and will be pursuing a degree course in Photojournalism at the University of Gloucestershire next year. We wish them and all of our creative alumni the best of luck with their creative careers. Looking forward to next year we will be introducing Photography GCSE for our Year 10 students. In the Autumn we will be taking part in the national initiative The Big Draw, working with four other schools across the country. In the Spring term we will enter more artwork for the Royal Academy Young artist summer show, which we have had great success with over the past few years. We have had student work displayed in the Royal Academy and sold, as well as on their online showcase.

LIBRARY - MRS SHEPPY

Congratulations to the following students who have read the most words this year.

Congratulations to the following students who have scored the most points in their quizzes for Accelerated Reader.

Yr7
Isobel 2,808,783 words read
Arielle 1,621,717 words read
Abbie H 509,888 words read
Isla B-D 379,417 words read

Yr7
Isobel Harry W
Isla B-D

Y8
Walter Flo
Courtney R Theo M

Yr8
Isabelle R 1,262,587 words read
Flo F 1,244,478 words read
Walter 814,334 words read
Paige, Cameron and Alfie M have read over a quarter of a million words

Well done all of you.

TICKETS £6
16 Under 12 years at Matinee only but MUST be accompanied by an adult!
(CASH PLEASED FROM WOOTONS AND ON THE DOOR)

Bouvier Hall Moviola August - Wicked (PG)
Thursday 14th August - Wicked (PG)
2:00 PM and 7:30 PM (Doors open 30 Minutes before)
- TICKETS £6 (E4 Under 12 years at Matinee only but MUST be accompanied by an adult!) (CASH PLEASED)
TICKETS available from Wootons and on the door.

Jon M. Chu's latest film, Wicked, is a massive spectacle based on the long-running hit Broadway musical.

