



Year 8's at the Majestic Cinema, Bridgnorth



# Oldbury Wells Journal

## December 2023



### **OWS..... Together at Christmas.**

Can I congratulate all students and staff on what has been an extremely successful first term of the academic year. It has been a privilege this week to hear of all the student successes during our celebration assemblies; at the time of writing we look forward to welcoming all our school community to a whole school assembly to sign off the end of term.

In school, everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break after what has been a longer than normal term. Looking back there has been much to celebrate and, as always, I am grateful to both staff and students for the commitment they give in all they do. Over recent weeks we have seen a positive response from our Year 11 students throughout their mock exams, they are in a position now where they can step back, take a break, reflect on their successes and areas of focus and return in the new year with a further level of focus as they work towards their final exams. This positive work ethic has been seen in all year groups with some fantastic individual achievements across all subject areas.

Our students have been keen to join in with the many extracurricular events taking place, with everyone particularly enjoyed the lunch time singing in the West hall over the last few days of term, and excited to receive cookies for all of those randomly selected on our Christmas Cookie Wheel - it has been great seeing everyone getting involved. Thanks to Caterlink for support the cookie wheel and providing the cookie prizes.

Students have responded brilliantly to a range of House competitions in school, including our annual School Christmas Card competition which is always developed into an e-card and sent to all our school community and partners. We hope you like our 2023 card which will be circulated electronically to everyone across the school community. Alongside this is our ongoing charity work of which students are always extremely supportive, recognising the positive difference they can make. Our recent cake sale, organised by Mrs Wycherley's tutor group, was particularly well received.

A special mention to students Max and Tazkia who will represent

OWS on the Trust Parliament. Both are committed to ensuring that all students have a voice which is heard and are keen to ensure positive updates and developments for all schools within the Trust. We look forward to seeing the impact of their work in the months ahead and how this links with the work of our school council within OWS.

This week it has been lovely to see students to come together during their end of term visits to Bridgnorth's Majestic cinema, bowling and taking part in the annual whole school Christmas quiz.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to two of our long serving staff. Mrs Chapman moves on to a promoted post having given 23 years of service to the school. Over her many years with us she has played a key role in school life helping many young people and families and being central to our many successes over the years. I know our staff and students are going to miss her and wish her all the very best for the future. We also say goodbye to Mrs Fyfe who retires at the end of term. Mrs Fyfe has done amazing work over many years supporting students as they transition from GCSE to post 16, and then for those who have joined Bridgnorth 6th form, supporting their journey with us and then onto university and the world of work. We also say goodbye to Miss Woodward in the school admin team who has been with us on maternity cover and provided some additional support across the team, Mr Walmsley who has played an integral part in our site team, and to Mr Khaliq who has been working within the Science team to fill a short-term position. A final thanks, goodbye and good luck to them all!

Can I use this opportunity to thank all students, staff and families for their continued support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the new year. We look forward to welcoming all students back in school on Tuesday, 9th January 2024 following a well-deserved break.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.**  
**Mr Tristham**

# CHRISTMAS!

## Christmas is here!

The winners of our annual Christmas Card competition have been announced.

We had some fantastic entries for the annual Christmas card competition. With some very inventive ways of incorporating the Oldbury Wells colours or logo into a festive design from baubles, tree toppers, santa's hat, wreaths and even Rudolph's nose! I am sure you will agree the final card designed by Georgina Harman Yr 7 and Ellis Williams Yr 8 and digitally animated by Mrs Dwane with a combination of two designs looks amazing. The winners were presented with a well-deserved prize and a set of cards of their design produced by Mrs Woodward.



The winning design!

## Christmas Jumper day

Great to see so many students (and staff!) take part in our Christmas jumper day raising money for Save the Children.



We raised £189.31 in total!

## Did someone say cake?!

We also held a charity bake sale raising money for Save the Children.



## Some great decorations!

Our year 7 & 8 students took part in a Christmas Decoration competition.

Mrs Burrows & Mrs Bridgwater held a Christmas decoration competition asking Yr7 and Yr8 students to be as creative as they could and make a Christmas decoration for the Pastoral Office tree. They had lots of entries, and it was very difficult to choose the winner

Winner for Yr7 – Jazmine Pallister  
Runner Up – Elisa Roggenbach

Winner for Yr8 – Amelia Galley  
Runner Up – Kyle Clemson



## A change to our Trust

The Trust has changed their name and logo

You will be aware that Oldbury Wells School works in partnership with four other secondary and four primary schools as part of a Trust. Earlier this year the Trust had a change of name and logo; we are now called TrustEd Schools (formally TrustEd CSAT Alliance).

The new logo design has taken the original CSAT purple triangle and turned it into three triangles shaped similar to the Shropshire hills to reflect our alliance within the county of Shropshire. The logo change can be seen on our website and letters home. Our Trust values and goals remain the same; to ensure every pupil has an excellent education and prepares them for their next stages in life. We look forward to continued developments and partnership working across all schools.



## DofE is back!

The chance to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award is being offered at Oldbury Wells again.

We are very excited to be running the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award for Year 9 again this year. As usual there has been an excellent uptake on demand for the award, which will involve students taking part in Volunteering, physical activity, taking part in a new or existing skill and (should students complete the first three parts) a 2 day expedition.



What students got up to at DofE last year!



## Attendance is important!

A message from our Attendance Officer...

Please can we remind parents/guardians of the importance of their child maintaining good attendance in school.

**Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child to fulfil their potential.**

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level, but in attendance terms it means that your child will miss half a school day each week across the academic year!

Please also continue to report your child's absence by phoning the absence line each morning before 8.45am, this is very important to comply with safeguarding and to ensure we have the correct code on our records.

**Thank you as always for your support with this.**

## School Parliament

Run by students, for our students!

Over the last term we have been organising school representatives ready to Launch the 'TrustEd Schools Student Parliament' to our students in January. The intention of the 'Parliament' is to allow our approximately 5000 students across the Trust to raise awareness of school, local community, and National projects. We will hopefully have a much bigger impact working as a Trust than individual schools. The elected Student Representatives will be the main form of communication and aim to help our students to have a greater say over matters that affect our Trust, our Trust community and the students' wider lives.

### Successful elected Representatives

- Belvidere: John & Evie
- Church Stretton: Dora and Thomas
- Mary Webb: Zia & George
- Meole Brace: Nimisha & Ben
- Oldbury Wells: Max & Taz
- Alveley: Ruby & Ben
- Castlefields: Hannah & Saskia
- St Leonards: Abigail & Isabella
- Stokesay: Aiza & Lily-Mae



Their first meeting is in the New Year!

## Children in Need!

We raised money for Children in Need with a non uniform day and a number of activities throughout the day.



We raised  
£815.10 in  
total!

## Year 9 Castlefields

### Reading with primary school children

This term our Year 9 students have been going into Castlefields Primary School to encourage students with their reading. They have worked with students from Reception all the way up to Year 6. It has been wonderful to see our leaders interacting and promoting reading throughout the primary school environment, many of whom are taking up a buddy role for the first time.

Each student has been placed in different year groups, working with many students for a short spell in the mornings. It is clear that each time they are growing in their own leadership and confidence skills within a new environment. All staff at Castlefields have commented how much of a positive experience it is for their students, and I can already see that having the new responsibilities is allowing students show their personalities outside of the classroom environment.

There will be many more opportunities for these and other Year 9s as we go through the year.

Well done!!



## Helping those less fortunate than us

OWS School Council got involved in the Wolves shoebox appeal.



OWS School Council have been busy organising Christmas shoe boxes for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation. Students and staff have donated items for the shoe boxes with the intention of giving a gift to a young person who may not have anything this Christmas. School council member Charlie Veal represented our school's donation at the Wolves ground. Our shoeboxes will be donated to the Good Shepherd, Refugee & Migrant Centre, Women & Families resource centre, Strengthening Families Hubs, Jericho House and The Haven to distribute to those in need.

**Thank you OWS for your kindness.**



## Artist of the Month!

Some great skills shown

### Year 7: Holly Rickwood

For an excellent start to Year 7 Art with an amazing sketchbook front cover and superb observation work and use of colour for the still life project. Well done!

### Year 9: Milly Pitt

For an excellent effort with the Year 8 magazine Art project. Good artist study and an excellent use of artist inspiration on the final creative magazine design. Well done!

### Year 10: Olivia Morgan

For good commitment to her Art studies including excellent homework. Superb use of media and refinement for her coursework GCSE Art project. Well done!



Holly Rickwood



Milly Pitt



Olivia Morgan



Milly Pitt



Olivia Morgan

## Frankenstein Trip

On Wednesday the 15th November, a Year 11 English group went to see 'Frankenstein' at the Malvern Theatre. After 90 minutes on the coach – Jacob did entertain us with Ratatouille to pass the time - we arrived! We had lunch outside and after playing on the swings in the parkland, we went in to see the play. It was...very different. It helped me gauge my understanding of the novel further because as the play was happening, I was able to decipher the differences between the text and this modern adaptation. The director put a 'modern twist' on Shelley's classic. It was set in what seemed to be Nazi Germany, judging by the character's stories. Victor Frankenstein was now Victoria Frankenstein who had an accomplice in creating the monster. The play was excellently acted out and the stage design very cleverly done. Although it was different to the novel in more major ways than one, it was certainly an enjoyable experience that was overall very useful.

Written by Tom Gregg, Yr11



## READDIT - Christmas 2023

Can you guess the wintery novel from the description? It's full of clues

An old man is cold and miserable at Christmas time – after a long life, he is missing an old friend who died around this time last year. He seems grumpy and cross, refusing to be kind to his workers and very lonely.

He leaves work on Christmas Eve and trudges home in the snow... His home is dark and with hardly any heat; he has a tiny supper. Then he has four visitors, who help him understand how lovely Christmas can be. He spends a very exciting evening before falling asleep in the early hours of the morning. When he wakes, it is Christmas Day – but luckily, he is able to buy many presents for all the people he has neglected.

He ends up at a Christmas party thrown by his nephew and promises he will always enjoy Christmas in the future.

**Why not write your own summary or review of a novel you've read and become our first contributor in 2024? Staff and students welcome – give your review to your English teacher (and don't forget to name the book and the writer so others can read the book).**

## A DYSTOPIAN CHRISTMAS

*dystopian: showing a society where there is great suffering or injustice*

**Some Year 8 and Year 9 students have been inventing a Christmas that is less kindly and generous than the real one! Look out for their work on the Noticeboard outside the Library in January!**

Can you name these two (child friendly) texts that feature an unkind Father Christmas?

1 Jack Skellington has plans to celebrate Christmas in his own way.  
**GNIMAHTRE FBEERO MSTRIACH**

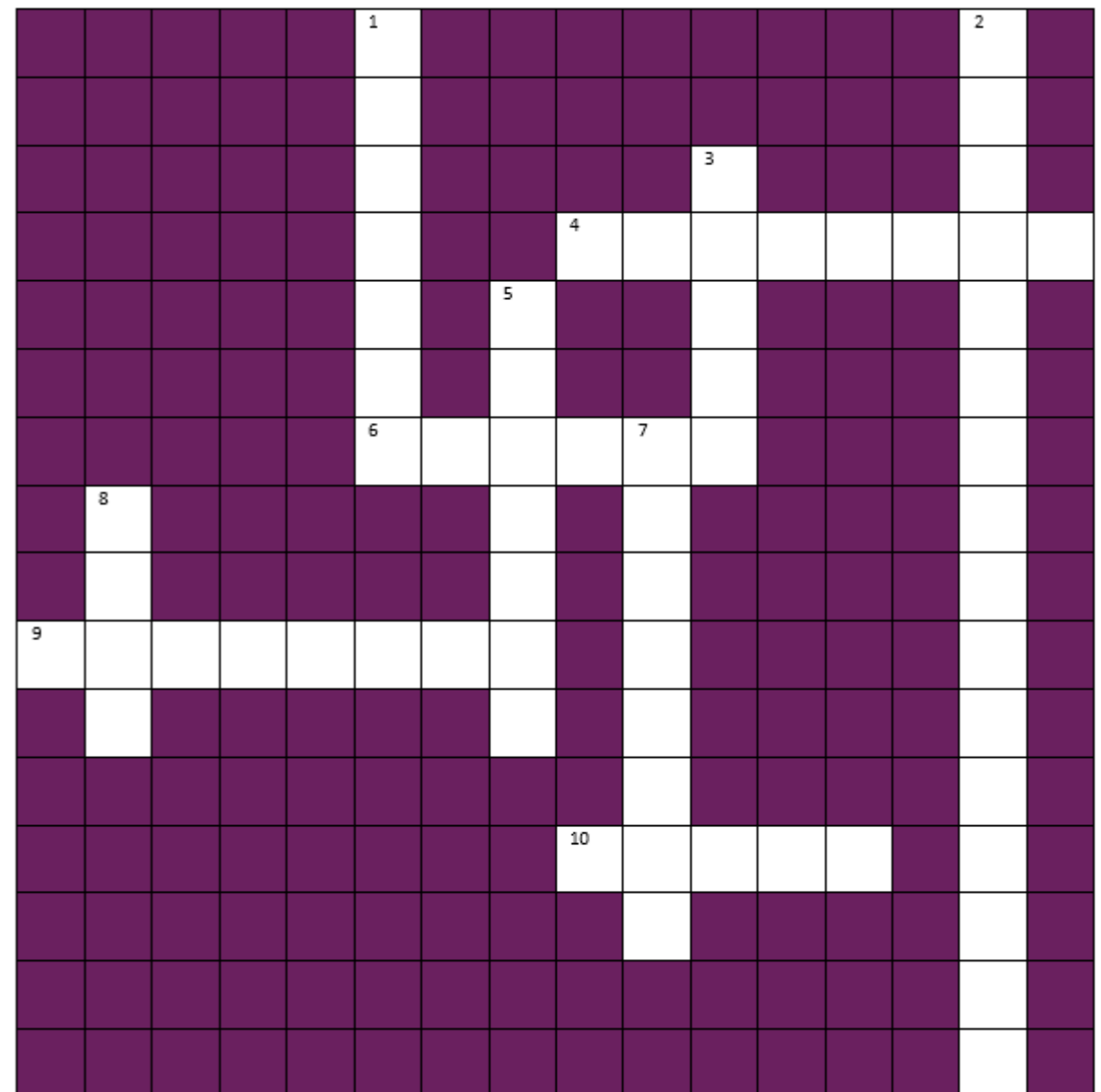
2 A cartoon made by the same company as The Simpsons has a Christmas episode with an evil Santa  
**TRFUAAMU**

And finally, a Victorian Christmas:

What are these items that a Victorian would expect and perhaps enjoy at Christmas?

- A wassail
- B mock turtle soup
- C sugar plums
- D forcemeat
- E figgy pudding
- F black truffles
- G mince pies

## A Christmas Carol Crossword



- 1 The clerk's little son
- 2 A Spirit and also a gift
- 3 The sister of the main character
- 5 The main character in the novel
- 7 The main character's first name
- 8 The nephew of the main character

- 4 The poor clerk, with a large family
- 6 The partner that becomes a door knocker
- 9 A good employer who holds a party
- 10 The fiancé who leaves him

## GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Our Year 10s got into the Christmas Spirit!

They made traditional Christmas fruit cakes, then iced and decorated them to their own designs.



## Chef of the Term!

### Year 7

Xanthia Tonks  
Kieran Fox

### Year 8

Megan Scott  
Ella-Rose McGoldrick

### Year 9

Evie Prosser  
Marlee Relph

### Year 10

Evie Prosser  
Marlee Relph

### Year 11

Molly Preece  
Olly Jackson

Well Done everyone!

## War workshops

Year 9 students have been treated to World War II workshops focusing on the experience of British soldiers on D Day. The History department would like to thank Mr Shipley (DT Technician) for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm. A good time was had by all!



REAL WAR MEMORABILIA!



## Encore Vocal Group

Every Thursday lunchtime

Vocal Group 'Encore' rehearsals have moved to Thursday lunchtimes at 1.30pm in the music room which means more students can now attend. Rehearsals are going well and we look forward to welcoming more new members of this fabulous group across all year groups. The only requirement is that you enjoy singing!

Bring your lunch with you so that we can make a prompt start to rehearsals.

## Vocal and Instrumental Tuition at Oldbury Wells!

We are very excited to have secured the expert vocal teaching of Beatrice Floyer-Acland, a professional singer and vocal teacher who has relocated from London to Shropshire. This is a most fantastic opportunity for our students to have singing tuition with an outstanding vocalist. We have some vacancies for vocal lessons so please contact Miss Dangerfield for further information on how to sign up for tuition.

## Instrumental Tuition

We have some vacancies also for Brass, Wind and String instrument tuition and it would be wonderful to get some more students started on their journey to learning to play an instrument. Students can learn for fun or learn to take graded exams. There are also opportunities to play in our ensembles once you can play a few notes.



Headlock performed at our end of year assembly!

## \*Special Offer\*

We have some brass instruments available for free hire in the music department so if you would like to have tuition on either cornet or trombone you don't have to have the additional hire cost of an instrument - just the tuition cost per term.

Again, please ask **Miss Dangerfield** for details. It is never too late to learn and it is such a good social thing to do.

## Down in the valley!

Year 10 GCSE trip to Carding Mill Valley



In October and November the Year 10 Geographers went to Carding Mill Valley for their GCSE rivers field trip. The trips were incredibly successful, despite Storm Babet causing damage to the Valley; it had to shut and a trip had to be quickly rescheduled! The storm caused the volume of water in the channel to be double the previous highest recorded, and the damage and changes to the river were impressive and insightful for the Y10 Geographers to see.

The Geographers demonstrated their brilliant skills and understanding measuring the width, depth, and speed of the flow to decide how the Ash Brook river may flood and affect the people of Church Stretton. They may have been cold, tired, wet, so a little grumpy but they were devoted to collecting the data nonetheless!





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## French Christmas Cultures!

How do French speaking countries around the world celebrate Christmas?

### AFRICA SENEGAL

Around 94% of Senegal's 14 million people are Muslim, yet Christmas is a national holiday. Blow-up Santas, Christmas trees, and tinsel-decorated garlands line the streets.



## French Christmas Cultures Cont.

### INDIAN OCEAN SEYCHELLES

Christmas is the main holiday of the year for locals. Christmas Dinners are replaced with beach barbecues and picnics, complemented by local beers and rum.



### SOUTH AMERICA FRENCH GUIANA

Some homes in French Guiana have Christmas trees decorated with apples, paper flowers, and ribbons. For Christmas dinner, seafood dishes and smoked ham are very popular.



### EUROPE FRANCE

In France, they enjoy 13 desserts after their main holiday meal. Saint Nicholas brings children gifts if his helper puts the children on the nice list.



### CANADA QUEBEC

The traditional Christmas meal for people in Quebec, is a stew called 'ragoût aux pattes de cochons' which is made from pigs feet!



## Exciting Handball Action at OWS

A growing passion!

Since September, 31 students have joined our Wednesday after-school handball club, creating a buzz of enthusiasm thanks to the passion of Miss Loewnau. Handball, a dynamic team sport with seven players on each side, has captivated our students with its blend of skill, strategy, and teamwork. The after-school club has become a hub of excitement and friendly competition. We're proud to share that Bradley and Harrison, two standout students, will represent Shropshire County in handball. Their dedication is evident in attending Friday training sessions at Shropshire Handball training hub in Telford and actively participating in regional and national fixtures.

In case you didn't know - this is Miss Loewnau!



## Battle of the TrustEd Schools!

This year has seen the introduction of the first TSA Cup for Year 7 students. The cup is competed for between the secondary schools who make up the TrustEd Schools trust, Oldbury Wells, Church Stretton, Meole Brace, Belvidere and Mary Webb. It involves half termly tournaments in a variety of different sports allowing lots of students the opportunity to take part and find a new sport that they like! So far, we have competed in football and basketball for boys, football and netball for girls with the next round of the competition being dodgeball in January. Coming up later in the year is an inclusion event featuring boccia, kurling and archery, followed by quad athletics and then finishing in the summer term with cricket for boys and rounders for girls. Well done to everyone who has taken part so far and please look out for notices about the upcoming fixtures if you would be interested.



## Science Club

Science Club takes place every Thursday after school until 4pm and is open to all Oldbury Wells Scientists in Y7-9. We are also looking for Y10-11 Scientists to act as Science leaders. Come along and get involved!



## Health & Social Care

Telford College visit gets hearts racing!

Oldbury Wells' Health and Social Care students had the pleasure of meeting with members of Telford College to take part in a ward truck experience. The visit is part of our careers programme, preparing our students for post-16 options and future careers. Students were virtually transported into a hospital ward, exploring the treatment of 'Mike', Telford Colleges' (very realistic) patient. Students were taught first-hand how to take a pulse and apply anatomical knowledge from their studies. The visit was a great success with many of our year 11 students now considering their next steps in the field of health and social care.

### Review from Darcy O'Neil:

The experience I had on the ward truck was exhilarating, taking the pulse of the doll felt like I was doing it on a real patient and the breathing was extremely realistic. I had an amazing time and would 100% do it again. Learning how to take blood pressure, oxygen levels and pulse rate was a great learning opportunity and I'm glad I got to be involved.

# NOTICEBOARD

## Merry Christmas from everyone at Oldbury Wells School!



### Extra Curricular Clubs

We have had a fantastic time in our clubs this term, expanding our range of clubs even beyond the excellent offer that we had in place last year.

After speaking to our students we have added the likes of Chess club and Lego club to our offer and these have attracted so many students we are having to get more equipment to cope with the demand. Thank you to John Prockter from the Bridgnorth Youth and Schools Project, who comes in to run the Lego Club, next term he will be introducing some stop motion animation... look out for this!

**As ever Oldbury Wells offers sports, revision and social based activities throughout the year.**

### Equipment Reminder

- Black pens
- Green Pens
- Red Pens
- HB Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Spanish or French Dictionary
- Highlighter pens
- Glue Stick
- Colouring Pencils
- Compass
- Protractor
- Earphones

Can we remind all students to bring a refillable water bottle to school.

### Term Dates

#### Spring Term 2024

**Starts** - Tuesday 9 January 2024

**Half-term** - Monday 12 - Friday 16

February 2024 inclusive

**Ends** - Friday 22 March 2024

**PD Days** - Monday 8 January 2024

#### Summer Term 2024

**Starts** - Monday 8 April 2024

**Half-term** - Monday 27 May - Friday

1 June 2024 inclusive

**Ends** - Friday 19 July 2024

**Bank Holiday** - Monday 6 July 2024

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